THE REGENT'S PARK AND PRIMROSE HILL

A. D. WEBSTER

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THE REGENT'S PARK AND PRIMROSE HILL

PRIMROSE HILL
Barrow Hill Reservoir
(Covered)
Barrow Hill
The Poplars
Ch.
ST EDMUND'S TERRACE
Stockleigh House
REGENT'S CANAL
Macclesfield Bridge
COLLEGE (Baptist)
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS
Collateral Cut Br
ALBERT RD
OUTER CIRCLE
B.M. 166·2
B.M. 145·2
B.M. 140·8
B.M. 137
B.M. 119·6
B.M. 136·6
B.M. 124·8
B.M. 117
B.M. 117·4
B.M. 115·3
B.M. 118·9
B.M. 100

THE REGENT'S PARK AND PRIMROSE HILL

HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES

WITH MAPS OF THE PARK AND TWENTY-FOUR ILLUSTRATIONS, MANY BEING FROM RARE PRINTS OF OLD MARYLEBONE PARK AND PRIMROSE HILL

BY

A. D. WEBSTER

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"PRACTICAL FORESTRY," "FORESTERS DIARY," "HARDY ORNAMENTAL FLOWERING TREES AND SHRUBS," "BRITISH ORCHIDS," "GREENWICH PARK," "HARDY CONIFEROUS TREES," "TOWN PLANTING," ETC.

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PREFACE

THIS book is the outcome of a paper on "The Regent's Park and Primrose Hill," which I read before several societies in London, and which by special request is being published in order that the history and antiquities of Old Marylebone Park and the Barrow Hill may be preserved. Several of the illustrations are from old and rare prints.

A. D. WEBSTER.

Regent's Park, 1911.

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THE TYBOURNE RIVER AND REGENT'S PARK

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THE REGENT'S PARK AND PRIMROSE HILL

EARLY HISTORY OF THE PARK

Marylebone Park.—Originally what is now known as the Regent's Park was a portion of an extensive tract of well-wooded pasture land called the Marylebone Park Fields. The name of Marylebone is derived from the church of the ancient village of Tybourne, situated on the eastern bank of a brook or rivulet, which, starting at Hampstead, wended its way through the Park in a south-westerly direction from Barrow Hill, emptying itself into the Thames near Vauxhall Bridge. Owing to its ruinous condition, Tybourne village church, originally dedicated to St. John the Evangelist, was replaced about the year 1400 by a more substantial building, which, being dedicated to the Virgin Mary, was named St. Mary at the Bourne—afterwards corrupted to Marybone, Maryleborne, and its present designation of Marylebone. Marylebone Park, which dates from the time of Henry VIII, when the Manor House was built, continued under the Crown until 1646, when King Charles, by letters patent dated at Oxford, May 6, granted it to Sir George Strode and John Wanderford, Esq., as security for a debt of £2,318 11*s.* 9*d.*, due to them for supplying arms and ammunition during the troubles of Charles. After the death of Charles the claims of these gentlemen were ignored,

and the Park was sold by Parliament to John Spencer "of London, gentleman," on behalf of Colonel Harrison's Regiment of Dragoons, on whom it was settled for their pay. The herd of deer, numbering upwards of one hundred, and most of the old timber was at this time disposed of, in fact the ancient "Huntinge Parke" was then disparked and was never again stocked with deer. The price received for the Park was £13,215 6*s*. 8*d*., including £130 for 124 head of deer, and £1,774 8*s*. for the timber, exclusive of 2,976 trees, which were reserved for the navy. On October 19, 1649, the Navy Commissioner was instructed to "repair the crane at Whitehall for boating timber, which is to go from Marylebone Park to the yards to build frigates." Again, Sir Henry Mildmay was ordered to "confer with Mr. Carter, Surveyor of Works, for the timber in Marylebone Park to be brought through Scotland Yard, to be boated there for the use of the navy." Cromwell converted the Park to other uses, as in June of the same year orders were given to put to grass in Marylebone Park all the artillery horses "bought by Captain Tomlins for Ireland till Monday week." That a number were turned out to graze there for a time is clear from the further warrant, dated July 12, to "permit William Yarvell, Carriage Master, to put all the horses provided for Ireland, which cannot be accommodated in Marylebone Park, into Hyde Park to graze." No doubt they found excellent pasture, in spite of the game. Still, the deer must have been fairly numerous, considering the price paid for those left when the Park was sold. One hundred of the "best deer were first ordered to be removed from there to St. James's Park, Colonel Pride to see to the business." After the disparking by Cromwell, the land was let on lease for various periods to different noblemen, the last being the Duke of Portland, whose lease expired in 1811, soon after which the formation of the present park was commenced. From a plan of

MARYLEBONE PARK FARM, ABOUT 1790

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the estate taken by order of the Right Honourable The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury in 1794, the Park contained 543 acres and 17 poles, and was subdivided into thirty-four fields. It was bounded by Primrose Hill on the north, and extended southward to the Duke of Portland's property, the eastern and western boundaries being nearly similar to those of the present park.

The names of some of the fields into which old Marylebone Park was divided are suggestive. Thus we have the gravel pit field, the pound field, where in all probability stray cattle, sheep and horses were impounded, the bell field, the butcher's field, and the field where copal varnish was manufactured.

As a hunting-ground Marylebone Park was much frequented by Royalty and their friends from about the middle of the sixteenth century down to the time of Cromwell, the situation being convenient and game abundant. Indeed of such importance were the game and hunting in the Park, that in the time of Elizabeth a lieutenant of the chase was appointed at the modest salary of £10 per annum. Among the Loseley MSS. occur, in 1554, instructions to Sir Thomas Cawarden, as "Master of Tents and Toiles," to superintend the making of "certain banquiting houses of Bowes (boughs) and other devices of pleasure." One of these was made in "Marylebone Parke," and a minute description is given. It was forty feet long, and "wrought by tymber, brick, and lyme, with their raunges and other necessary utensyles thereto insident, and to the like accustomed." Also three "standinges" were made at the same time, "all of tymber garnished with boughes and flowers, every (one) of them conteynenge in length 10 foote and in bredth 8 foote, which houses and standings were so edified, repaired, garnished, decked, and fynyshed against the Marshall Saint Andrews comynge thethere by speciale and straight comandement, as well of the late King as his counsell to Sir Thomas

Cawarden, Knt. Mr. of the said Officer of Revels; and Lawrence Bradshaw, Surveior of the Kings works, exhibited for the same wt. earnest charge done, wrought and attended between the 27th of June and the 2nd of August in the said year" (4th of Edward VI). Employed on the above works for twenty-two days at all hours, a space to eat and drink excepted, "Carpenters, bricklayers, 1*d*. the hour; labourers, ½*d*. per hour; plasterers, 11*d*. a day; painters, 7*d*. and 6*d*. a day." "Charges for cutting boughs in the wood at Hyde Park for trimming the banqueting house, gathering rushes, flags and wy; painters, taylors, for sewing roof, etc., basket makers working upon windows, total cost, £169 7*s*. 8*d*." Only about half of this total was due to the work in Marylebone, as a similar pavilion and three other standings were made in Hyde Park at the same time. In the Board of Works accounts for 1582 there is an entry of a payment "for making of two new standings in Marylebone and Hyde Park for the Queen's Majestie and the Noblemen of France to see the hunting," and on February 3, 1600, the ambassadors from the Emperor of Russia and their retinue rode through the City of London to Marylebone Park and there hunted at their pleasure, and shortly afterwards returned homeward. The Park woods were of considerable area, and the old timber not only abundant but of large size, as may be inferred from the fact that during the reign of Charles II 976 trees were reserved for the navy, while the remaining timber was valued at £1,774 8*s*. Although the forest of Middlesex was deforested early in the thirteenth century, yet Marylebone Park and St. John's Wood would appear to have escaped the general destruction, for as late as Queen Elizabeth's time these woods afforded excellent shelter to game as well as concealment to conspirators. The park ranger previous to the Usurpation was John Carey, Esq., he being succeeded by Sir John Ipsley, who was appointed by the Pro-

FARM IN MARYLEBONE PARK, 1750

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tector, the former having, however, received compensation for the loss of his post. It is interesting to note that during the reign of Elizabeth not only was there a ranger of Marylebone Park, but a keeper who received a fee of £12 13*s*. 4*d*., and a keeper of the woods and gardens who received a salary of £10. Even as late as the end of the sixteenth century Marylebone Park presented quite a rural and farmlike appearance with its herds of cattle, hedged-in fields and quaint old farmyard buildings. Several of the latter stood near to the north-east end of the present Toxophilite grounds, the foundations of which were unearthed and removed when the adjoining shrubbery was formed in 1888.

Bowles's map of 1786 shows Park Farm subdivided into fields, with the farm buildings six in number, and a small pond on the south side near York Bridge.

A road ran almost northwards from the turnpike past Park Farm, at which point it divided, one passing over Primrose Hill to Hampstead and the other to St. John's Wood. The road to Primrose Hill and Hampstead was of a particularly rural description, and was frequently used by Londoners as a pleasant and secluded walk.

But as late as the beginning of the seventeenth century Marylebone was a small village surrounded by fields and about three-quarters of a mile distant from any part of the Metropolis. Indeed in 1820 the painting by Glover of Primrose Hill and the Ornamental Water, taken from Clarence Gate, shows a party of haymakers sketched from life, and only three buildings scattered about near where the present church now stands.

Macaulay, too, reminds us that at the end of the reign of Charles II "cattle fed and sportsmen wandered with guns and dogs over the site of the borough of Marylebone"; and earlier, in 1638, in the comedy *Tottenham Court*, by Thomas Nabbs, the milk-maid's song testifies to the rural character of the place.

The old farms with their cow-sheds and other buildings have now entirely disappeared from the Park, probably the last remains being the ground floor of the present Hall of the Toxophilite Society.

Affairs of honour were frequently settled in the lonely fields of Old Marylebone Park, and according to royal and noble authors a duel which attracted a considerable amount of attention was fought there during Queen Elizabeth's reign, of which the following is an abstract: "Sir Charles Blount, afterwards Earl of Devonshire, a very comely young man, having distinguished himself at a tilt, Her Majesty (Queen Elizabeth) sent him a chess Queen of Gold enamelled, which he tied upon his arm with a crimson ribband. Essex perceiving it, said with affected scorn, 'Now I perceive every fool must have a favour.' At this Sir Charles challenged, fought him in the Marylebone Park, disarmed him, and wounded him in the thigh."

In Mary's time the Park witnessed a warlike scene in connection with one of the organised attempts to dethrone the Queen. The indictment of Sir Nicholas Throgmorton for high treason, because he, with Sir Thomas Wyatt and others, conspired to depose and destroy the Queen, states that "the said Sir Nicholas plotted to take and hold the Tower, levy war in Kent and Devonshire, etc., and, with Sir Henry Isley and others, on January 26, 1554, rose with 2,000 men, marched from Kent to Southwark, and by Brentford and Marylebone Park to London, the Queen being then at Westminster, but were overthrown by her army." The incidents which centre round this Park are few. Even in the accounts of all the royal lands it does not often occur. In 1607 one item in the Domestic State Papers, a list of nine parks, from each of which four bucks were to be taken, includes Hyde Park, but Marylebone is not mentioned, and in orders to the keepers it does not often occur.

It may be of interest to know that a portion of the

MARYLEBONE PARK FARM, 1807

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old iron railing which enclosed Marylebone Park may still be seen at No. 8, Portland Place.

During the early part of the nineteenth century the Rhodes family (ancestors of the Right Honourable Cecil Rhodes, of South African fame), who were the largest farmers in St. Pancras, rented a portion of the Park near the York and Albany at Gloucester Gate. The accompanying illustrations of Marylebone Park in 1700, 1750 and 1807 will recall the rustic appearance of the grounds during the latter part of the sixteenth and early years of the seventeenth century.

In addition to the names given in the beginning of this chapter, Marylebone was at times known as Maribone, Marybourne, and Mary's bourne; while in 1661 Pepys wrote, "Then we went abroad to Marrow-bone and there walked in the garden, the first time I was ever there, and a pretty place it is." "Dr. Syntax" is supposed to take up his quarters in "Mary-bonne" when in search of a wife.

THE OLD MANOR HOUSE

THIS mansion or palace was attached to the Royal Park of Marylebone, and was in the heyday of its grandeur and gaiety during the reign of Mary and Elizabeth, chiefly on account of the fine hunting for which the Park and adjoining forests were remarkable. It stood facing the present York Gate, on a site now partly occupied by the Devonshire Mews, and not far distant from the old church of Marylebone. Built during the time of Henry VIII, the Manor House was both imposing and commodious, and consisted of a large body and two wings with a projecting porch in the front and a deep dormer roof supported by numerous pillars. Five gables terminated the back or garden front wall of the house. It was built of brick, and surmounted by a turret with clock and bell; the whole being walled around and planted with shrubs and trees. The rooms were of large size, particularly the reception room, saloon and gallery, and from the decoration were, in all probability, of the Inigo Jones period. During the time that it was vested in the Crown the Manor House was frequently used as a temporary residence by Queen Elizabeth, and here she entertained visitors who were asked to hunt in the royal Park of Marylebone. It is recorded that for the amusement of the Russian Ambassadors a stag was hunted within the pales of the Park. Hares and foxes were frequently hunted.

In the history of the royal progresses of that Queen it is recorded that "on February 3, 1600, the Ambassadors from the Emperor of Russia and other Muscovites rode through the City of London to

THE OLD MANOR HOUSE IN TIME OF QUEEN ELIZABETH

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Marybone Park, and there hunted at their pleasure, and shortly afterwards returned homewards." Henry VIII lived at certain periods in the old Manor House or Hunting Lodge.

The Manor House was granted by Queen Elizabeth to the Forest family, by whom it was partially re-modelled and several additions made. About the year 1703 the Manor House was turned into a School by a certain clergyman named Fountayne, who kept about a hundred boarders, amongst whom was the well-known and eccentric George Hanger, afterwards known as Lord Coleraine. This remarkable house was pulled down in 1791, and some livery stables now occupy its site.

Behind the Manor House stood in the reign of Queen Anne the famous Marylebone tea-gardens, at that time much frequented by the nobility and gentry.

The accompanying illustration shows the Old Manor House as viewed from the Park, during the time of Queen Elizabeth.

THE TYBOURNE

Of the several rivulets which had their origin in Hampstead Hill, by far the most important, from our point of view at least, was the Tybourne or Aye Brook, which not only formed the present lake in the Park, but was the first stream that contributed to London's water supply. The principal source of the Tybourne was the Shepherds' Well near the meeting of Fitzjohn's Avenue and Lyndhurst Road at Hampstead. This has now been converted into a fountain with the following inscription: "For the good of the public this fountain is erected near the site of an ancient conduit known as the Shepherds' Well." Immediately behind is the Conduit Lodge with the following inscription in Latin over the door: "This house by its position and name preserves the memory of an ancient spring gushing forth from the ground near by."

From here the Tybourne flowed in a southerly direction, and was joined near Primrose Hill (Barrow Hill), at the junction of Acacia and Townshend Roads, by a branch which had its origin in Belsize Park. Incidentally it may be mentioned that this branch flowed through the extreme western corner of Primrose Hill, and close by where an ancient drinking pond and many damp hollows were filled in about five years ago.

The Tybourne entered Regent's Park at the point where Charlbert Street joins the Albert Road and close to the footbridge which crosses the canal, crossed the canal and Outer Circle Road, and entered the grounds of St. Dunstan's about fifty yards west of the present entrance gate to the Park. It then followed

THE SHEPHERDS' WELL— SOURCE OF THE TYBOURNE

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the low-lying ground to the east of St. Dunstan's, where traces of its existence have been unearthed on several occasions, and joined the lake at its extreme western end near the boat-house. From here it followed the present southern boundary of the lake, or more correctly about midway between that and the Outer Circle Road, to Clarence Gate.

Another branch of the Tybourne, about half-a-mile in length, had its origin in some swampy grounds in the gardens of the Zoological Society not far from the present new offices in the Outer Circle Road near St. Mark's Bridge. It followed the low-lying ground in the Park to the south of the cricket pavilion, joining what is now the northern arm of the lake at a point called "The dead man's corner." From there it followed in almost a direct line the present course of the lake, keeping to the western side of the various islands, and joined the main stream opposite Sussex Place and not far distant from the present bank of the lake. At that time and up to about a century ago the site of a goodly portion of the present lake was low-lying, marshy ground with a series of small ponds, which were fed mainly by the Tybourne and its branches. Soon after, however, the islands were formed and the various ponds connected into one broad expanse of water. There is a map in the British Museum on which the original ponds and marshy grounds are marked. "The dead man's corner" derived its name from the fact that dead bodies had on several occasions been found there, some, no doubt, having drifted to that point from other parts of the lake. The accompanying map of Roman London shows clearly the course followed by the Tybourne and its branches, and is of special importance as showing their relation to the Park and adjoining grounds. From the Park it crossed the Outer Circle Road at Upper Baker Street, followed the windings of Marylebone Lane, across Piccadilly, through the Green Park, and dividing into two

streams near Buckingham Palace flowed into the Thames at Westminster Abbey. The subdivision of the northern arm formed Thorn eye, "The Island of Thornes"—a thicket-grown, sandy island, on which the Abbey now stands; while Millbank still perpetuates the stream, for besides supplying the Abbey with water it turned the mill which the monks had erected on its banks.

Early historians speak of the Tybourne as a beautiful rippling stream, particularly in its upper reaches, the clear cool waters of which flowed over glistening pebbly beds and abounded with fish. The banks, too, were in many places enlivened by the showy flowers of the Purple Orchid, the Marsh Marigold, and the Iris. Towards its mouth, however, the Tybourne was a muddy creek, and navigable as far as the present site of Buckingham Palace, where traces of old wharves and the original bed of the stream have been discovered. As late as 1737 a bridge over the Tybourne was widened and improved; and when the premises of Marshall & Snelgrove were built some years ago a bridge was found at eleven feet below the level of Oxford Street. On Potter's Map of London's Water Supply the course of the Tybourne is clearly indicated as far as the present lake in the Park. In a map of London published by Thomas Bower in 1695 the Tybourne is also shown, as also at an earlier date, 1642, on the Parliamentary Plan of the Fortifications of London. But, as early as 1222, we find the Tybourne stream expressly mentioned in the great controversy which then took place between the Bishop of London and an Abbot of Westminster; and in the Valor of Pope Nicholas, written in the reign of Edward I, the village is mentioned as Ecclesia de Tyborne. The Manor of Tyborne is also described in the Domesday Book.

When the Regent's Canal was being made (1812–20) the waters of the Tybourne were conveyed in a tem-

AN EXECUTION AT TYBOURNE ABOUT 1630

(*See page 23.*)

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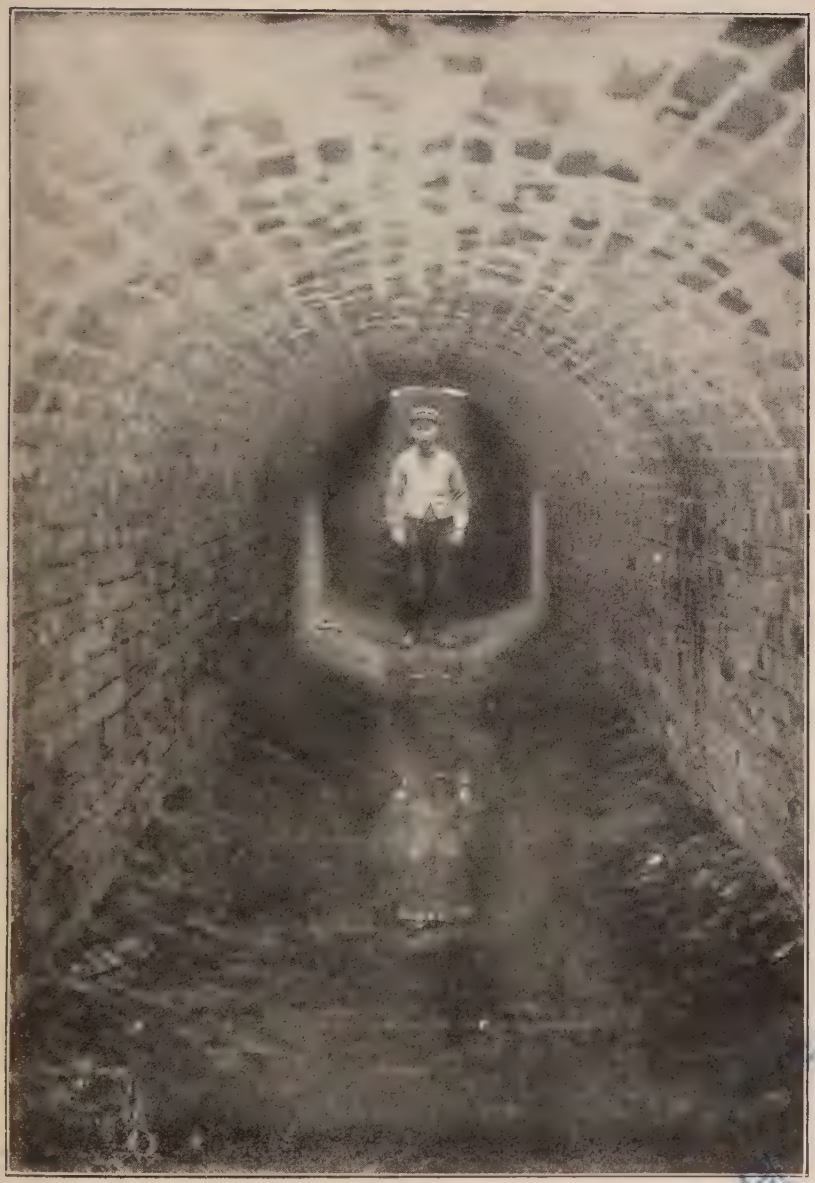
porary manner across the cutting near the North Gate in a wooden trough, of which a drawing has been preserved. With the making of the canal the upper waters of the Tybourne were entirely cut off.

The Tybourne stream has the distinction of being the first instance on record of water being conveyed to London by pipes, for we find that in 1238–39 a large sum of money was raised in furtherance of a scheme for bringing water from conduits in and near the village of Tybourne. From a drawing which is here reproduced the conduit building of 1236 which stood near Tybourne was of substantial structure with domed door and tiny windows projecting from the tiled roof. With the erection of houses and formation of streets, the Tybourne stream was found to be in the way, which led to its being gradually domed over or enclosed in a culvert. About 1618 the Tybourne water was superseded by that from the New River, as also to a great extent a century earlier by the waterworks of London Bridge. Now the culverts and pipes which once conveyed the pure water of the Tybourne are utilised as sewers, and the historic stream exists only in name. There stood in Marylebone parish a banqueting house where the Lord Mayor and aldermen dined when they inspected the conduits of the Tybourne.

Tybourne Brook is also remarkable as being, since so early as 1388, the recognised place of execution for all criminals in London City. As the town grew, however, the gallows, which consisted of three upright posts forming a triangle, was moved further and further along the bank, until in 1839 it was permanently fixed a few yards west of the present site of the Marble Arch, or, according to Rocque, in the centre of the roadway facing Edgware Road at the point where Edgware Road, Oxford Street and Bayswater Road meet. Ryland was the last to suffer at Tyburn in 1783, after which all executions took place at Newgate.

In the private enclosure by the lake's side opposite Sussex Place and Hanover Terrace, a culvert of beautiful construction was discovered and opened in 1906. This, there is little doubt, marked the original course of the Tybourne stream, which was encased about the time of the reconstruction of the Park. It is of brick, the internal measurements in one part being six feet high and five feet wide, but at various points the size is much smaller. On exploring this culvert, of which an illustration is here given, it was found to wind about in a remarkable manner from the upper end of the lake to Clarence Gate, along which ground it is recorded the Tybourne wended its way.

The origin of the name "Ty"- or "Eye"-bourne can only be guessed at, but it is generally supposed to refer to the river's twofold start and finish and to its being enclosed between its two sister rivers—the Hole-bourne and the West-bourne, all three having a common origin near Hampstead and flowing for some distance almost parallel on their way to the Thames. The orthography, too, is diverse and curious, as at various times we find the river called Tyburn, Eyeburn, Tybrook, Eyebrook, Tioburna, Tighbourne (enclosed river) and Tybourne.



THE TYBOURNE CONDUIT

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THE REGENT'S PARK

THE Regent's Park, which is simply old Marylebone Park remodelled, was commenced in 1812 and thrown open to the public in 1838. It was named after the Prince Regent, under whose auspices the work of reconstruction was commenced, and for whom it was intended to build a palace in the centre of the grounds.

Another intention was to connect the Park with Carlton House, and this design, though never carried out, gave birth to Regent Street. As early as 1793 the architect to the Duke of Portland submitted a plan to the Surveyor General for the improvement of Marylebone Park, and the lords of the Treasury offered a reward of £1000 for an approved plan for laying out the whole of the estate.

From a copy of the Treasury minute dated July 2, 1793, it would appear that six plans of the estate were supplied by the Commissioners of Woods, and Mr. Nash, Architect and Surveyor of Woods and Forests, and Messrs. Leverton & Chawner, of the Land Revenue Department, were required to submit plans for the re-arrangement of the Marylebone Park estate.

Several plans were furnished, and that of Mr. Nash being approved, was submitted to Parliament, and an act for carrying the work into execution was passed. Mr. James Morgan laid out the Park to Nash's plans.

For several years the site presented a most extraordinary scene of digging, excavating, burning and building, and seemed more like a work of general destruction than anything else; indeed, in *Walks Through London,* published in 1817, the Park is

spoken of as "not likely to receive a speedy completion," though one of the greatest Sunday promenades about the town.

For several years after the spring of 1830 the public were restricted to the use of the roads and paths only, the greensward being devoted to grazing, while tree-planting and general ground-work improvements were being carried out. The Park proper, particularly the north-western side and bridges, was not thrown open till several years after 1838.

The Park contains 472 acres, 2 roods and 18 poles, and is nearly circular in form, the outer road being a little under three miles in length. Of this area the ornamental waters exceed twenty-two acres and the roads and paths fully forty-seven acres—the total length of the latter being a little over twenty-nine miles. The Inner Circle Road, which surrounds the Royal Botanic Gardens, is five furlongs and fifty yards in length, and is a favourite resort of cyclists and equestrians, a sand ride for the latter being provided.

The Broad Walk, which runs through the Park in an almost straight line from north to south, commences in the flower garden by Park Square, and terminates at the Outer Circle Road by St. Mark's Bridge. It is a noble avenue, thirty-three feet wide throughout, and flanked on either side by a wide belt of trees except at the highest point by the fountain, where a well-arranged shrubbery backs up the nearly circular promenade at the junction of several of the Park roads and footpaths. In the flower garden, too, the avenue is bordered by lines of well-developed horse-chestnut trees, which, when in full flower, add greatly to the charm of these grounds. On the right or eastern side of the Broad Walk from Avenue Lodge is Cumberland Green, a portion of which is reserved as a hockey and cricket ground for ladies, not far distant and hidden from view in one of the shrubberies being a dressing-room for the players.

REGENT'S PARK FROM THE BROAD WALK

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Further along on the same side, after passing the drinking fountain, is Gloucester Green, where juvenile games are allowed, particularly cricket and football. Stretching away towards Primrose Hill, on the north-western side of the Broad Walk, is the open Park, a considerable extent of which is devoted to cricket and football. The Broad Walk is a favourite promenade of residents and visitors, the shade and shelter being much appreciated, as are the numerous chairs and seats that are conveniently placed in recesses by the roadway, while it is traversed in every direction to all parts of the Park by well-kept paths and roads.

The open north side of the Park allows the eye to range over the beautiful uplands of Primrose Hill, Highgate and Hampstead, but every year the view is becoming more difficult owing to the rapid growth of the trees.

There is an entrance for foot-passengers to the Zoo from the Broad Walk opposite Gloucester Gate.

On the Outer Circle Road near the northern end of the Broad Walk, and opposite the principal entrance to the Zoological Society's garden, is a handsome drinking fountain, which was presented by Lady Burdett-Coutts in 1871. It is of noble proportions, being built of granite, marble and bronze, with statuary, and surmounted by a cluster of lamps, with several jets of water springing from the basins. It is to be regretted that this handsome fountain was not erected in a position where it could be better preserved from harm, as several of the figures and other portions have been damaged and broken off from time to time.

Another fountain of beautiful but quite different design was erected in the Park near to Gloucester Gate in 1878. The statue—the figure of a girl drawing water from a natural spring—is by Joseph Durham, A.R.A., and is beautifully executed in bronze. The wide-spreading pedestal is formed of natural boulders from the moors of Cornwall, the intervening spaces

being planted with a collection of rock and other suitable plants. There are seven main entrances to the Park, at Park Square east and west, York, Clarence, Hanover, North and Gloucester Gates, besides minor roads at Brunswick Place, Kent Passage, Charles Street, Primrose Hill and St. Mark's Bridges, Cumberland and Chester Entrances.

Generally speaking, the soil in the Park is a stiff, unctuous clay that retains a great amount of moisture in winter and readily cracks during dry and hot weather in summer. Tree planting for this reason is both a difficult and expensive undertaking, and in order to ensure a certain amount of success the natural soil must be largely replaced by that of a more suitable quality for the growth of trees and shrubs. Of late years by drainage and top-dressing the surface soil has much improved, while tree planting and the formation of shrubberies have greatly altered the cold and dreary aspect of the landscape.

The Van Horse Parade is held in the Park on Easter Monday and the Cart Horse Parade at Whitsuntide, both attracting large numbers of visitors.

A band plays in the Park on Sunday afternoons during the summer months, the bandstand being situated near the fountain on the Broad Walk.

There are three kiosks in Regent's Park, at all of which refreshments can be procured. That on the western side of the Broad Walk is a spacious and well-arranged building with adjoining shady grounds where refreshments are served in the summer. The cricket pavilion is near the centre of the Park, and conveniently situated for the cricketers and footballers, for whom it principally caters. Not only are refreshments served here, but all implements in connection with the above games can be stored in the building, and there are likewise washing- and dressing-rooms for the use of the members of the various clubs who make use of the adjoining grounds. The bar at the western end of the lake meets the wants of the boating

MARYLEBONE MANOR HOUSE

(*See page 29.*)

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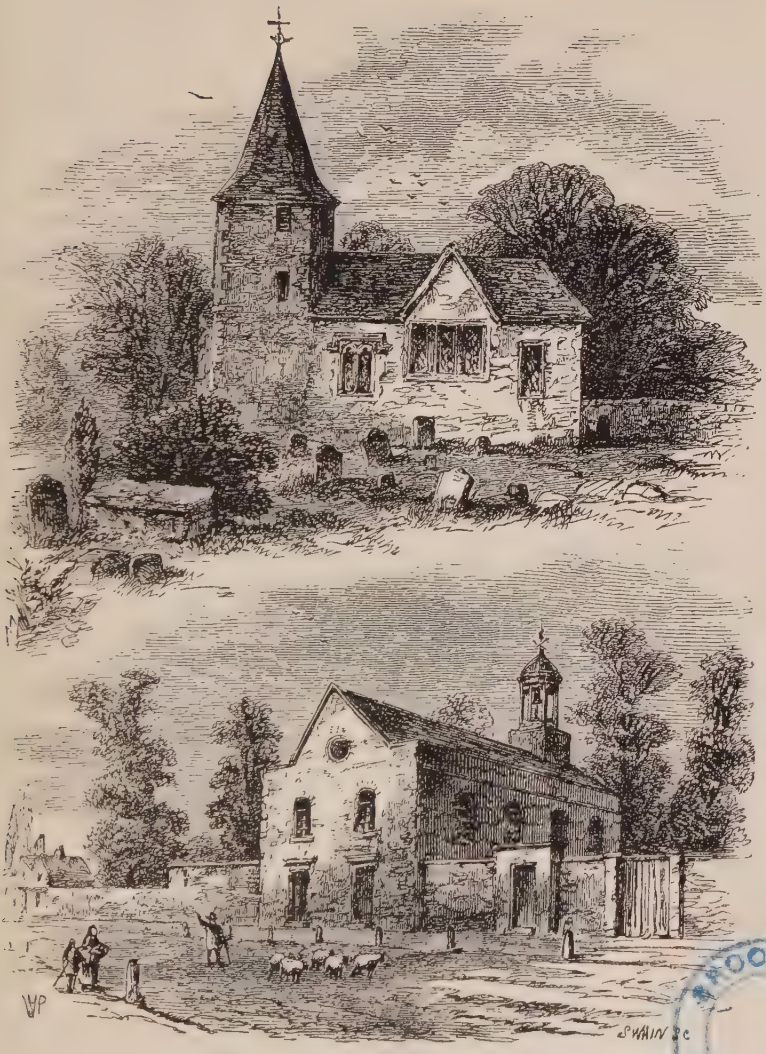
community and visitors to that part of the Park. A handsome kiosk is about to be erected on Primrose Hill to take the place of the old and dangerous building which was pulled down in 1904. Here the wants of the cricketers will receive attention in the matter of dressing-rooms and storage accommodations in connection with the newly reclaimed grounds near by. In a small neat building, at the entrance to the Broad Walk from Chester Road, cakes, sweets and mineral waters are also sold. A stout oaken fence of neat and rustic design, but quite unsuited for a boundary, encloses the Park. It was erected about 1820, and is over seven miles in length. On each post of the fence was inserted a brass plate on which was recorded the name of the maker and his address. These plates were all removed and sold as old brass by a gang of thieves from St. Giles.

The fence, which is now in a deplorable condition, and only supported by the spurs which had been added, is being gradually replaced by a neat and more efficient structure of iron. Within a stone's throw of the York Gate entrance to the Park is the house in which Charles Dickens took up his abode in 1839, and from which emanated *Master Humphrey's Clock*, *The Old Curiosity Shop*, *David Copperfield*, *Barnaby Rudge*, *Christmas Carol* and other works, and where he also received many of his friends, including Macready, Landseer, Carlyle, Thackeray, Talfourd, Bulwer, Stanfield and Hood.

Dickens made mention of the then ruffianism in Regent's Park, where his children and nurse were molested by tramping women and girls, but which he later was the means of putting down by appeals to the press and police-court charges.

The house occupied by Dickens was 1, Devonshire Terrace, and a suitable tablet recording the fact has been attached to the building, while in front of this house and nearer the present Park boundary stood the old Manor House of Marylebone Park (see illustration

overleaf), to which a chapter has been devoted in this book, and close by is the old parish church of Marylebone. Regent's Park, too, was the romantic district through which Dickens in the person of his *Uncommercial Traveller* described at a distance in the course of his "various solitary rambles" which he professes to have taken northwards for his retirement; and which in his own words to Forster he describes as an undeniable situation. The frame-ground and plant-houses occupy a secluded spot by Chester Road and close to the Broad Walk, but are not open for public inspection. The houses necessarily occupy a large area, about 17,000 square feet, to produce the thousands of plants that are required in the way of spring and summer bedding. They are ten in number, and used, however, not only for storing the plants that are required in the Park, but for some twenty gardens or grounds of public buildings in various parts of London. The Tower, Mint, Law Courts, Record Office, Mercantile Marine Offices, Audit Office, Tate Gallery, Wallace Collection, and others are all subsidiary to Regent's Park, and require to be catered for from the plant-houses in the frame-ground. The general public have little idea of the care and forethought that is required to produce the thousands of bedding and other plants necessary to deal with the grounds in question. Of Violas alone, fully 24,000 plants are annually raised from cuttings, and about a like number of Geraniums, while foliage plants are largely used in the decoration of the flower-beds. The nursery which bounds the plant-houses is occupied mainly by hardy herbaceous plants such as Wallflowers, Delphiniums, etc., for spring bedding and the numerous edging specimens of Thrift, Saxifrage, and allied dwarf plants. The workshops, including a well-appointed carpenter's room, blacksmith's forge, paint room, stables and capacious store-room for tools and other appliances used in the Park, are situated at what is known as the storeyard, at Chester Road. Here also are the offices



MARYLEBONE CHURCH IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY AND IN 1750

[*To face p.*

BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

and accommodations for water-carts, vans and the many other requirements necessary for carrying out park work generally. The plant-houses and nursery are also at the storeyard.

The public are well catered for in the matter of suitable grounds for the playing of various games, no less than one hundred acres of the Park being mainly devoted to cricket, football and hockey, while five grounds are set apart on which the children of the London County Council Schools may play at games of various descriptions. The cricket-ground extends from the cricket pavilion to the Zoo boundary, and twenty matches can be engaged in at the same time, while in addition a piece of ground on which net practice is allowed is set aside near the bandstand. On the south-western side of Primrose Hill there is also a piece of reclaimed ground set aside for cricket which is sufficiently large to allow of ten games being played at the same time. On Saturdays all the grounds are reserved for senior clubs, but on other days of the week junior clubs who have received a permit are permitted to use them. The juvenile ground for cricket and football is on Gloucester Green, but permits to play there are not necessary. As showing the extent to which cricket and football are engaged in, it may be mentioned that during last season 1,313 games of the former, and 1,035 of the latter were played. Football is played on the grounds to the north-west of the cricket pavilion, and storage accommodation for all cricket and football appliances is provided in the pavilion, as also washing- and dressing-rooms. Permits both for cricket and football are issued from the Superintendent's office, fourteen days' notice for Saturday games, and three days for other days of the week, except Sunday, being necessary. The cricket season extends from the 1st of May to 30th of September, and the football from 1st of October to the last day of February. Hockey is only allowed to be played by ladies, and a specially prepared ground is provided

for the game on Cumberland Green, a dressing- and storage-room being adjoining. So popular has hockey become of late years that at the present time five games take place on several days of the week. Cricket for ladies is allowed on the hockey-ground during the season.

A sand-pit for children has been formed in the Park opposite Ulster Terrace on the boundary of the flower garden, which is well patronised, as are also several enclosures "For children only" that have been fenced off at various parts of the Park. The gymnasium at Primrose Hill is a boon to the young men who frequent the Park. It contains two giant strides, parallel bars, climbing poles, and ropes and swinging apparatus. Appliances are provided for both children and adults, each being confined to a separate side of the gymnasium ground, and a park-keeper is in attendance. All grounds for games are kept mown, and, with the exception of those for football, marked off free of charge by the Board's workmen. A small charge is made by the licensee of the kiosks for the storage of appliances at the cricket pavilion.

Though much has been done to improve the Park grounds by a thorough system of drainage and top-dressing, yet, owing to the stiff clayey nature of the soil, games cannot be engaged in at all times, and particularly during or immediately after wet weather.

THE FLOWER GARDEN

THE flower garden, which was laid out at the direct instigation of Prince Albert, occupies the south-eastern corner of the Park, and is bordered on two sides by the Outer Circle Road and on the other two by Marylebone Green and Chester Road. It is intersected by the Broad Walk, and contains twelve and a quarter acres, of which fully two acres are flower beds and borders. There is also a small extent of water, which contains a choice selection of aquatic and semi-aquatic plants. In order to relieve the otherwise flat and uninteresting appearance of the grounds of the flower gardens several mounds were erected, the soil for which was obtained from the reservoir at Tolmers Square, which was demolished about the beginning of the last century. By careful arrangement as to shape and planting, these mounds now present a very natural appearance and add greatly to the charm of the gardens. The flower beds, which were originally designed by Nesfield in 1865, are planted twice, and in some cases thrice, each year, first with bulbs in November, and again with a miscellaneous collection of the most suitable plants in May and June. There are a number of large and handsome flower vases, which greatly contribute to the ornamental appearance of the garden. The largest, called the Griffon Vase, stands near the fountain by the Broad Walk and is of neat and bold design, four griffons supporting a large saucer-shaped receptacle in which the flowers are planted. It seems incredible, but about four hundred bedding plants are required to fill this vase, which is fully six feet in diameter at top. Owing to their height

above ground and consequent exposure to the wind, the flowers in all the vases require to be planted closely together. The bulbs used consist principally of Hyacinths, Tulips, Narcissus and Crocus, the number used annually being upwards of 197,000. On the grass, large breadths of various bulbs are planted; these mainly consist of Snowdrops, Daffodils, Crocus, Scillas, Chionodoxa, Aconites, Trilliums, and Star of Bethlehem. Originally the flower beds were laid out in the Italian style, with box-edged beds, gravelled walks and edgings of stone. Carpet bedding was principally the style adopted, and on the grass choice specimen shrubs and other plants were freely used. This, however, was done away with, and the present more natural style adopted. Scattered over the flower garden are many rare and interesting trees and shrubs, including an unusually large specimen, perhaps the finest in the kingdom, of *Paulownia imperialis*, the stem of which girths five and one-third feet at a yard from the ground. The beautiful Foxglove-like flowers are borne in great profusion, but, as is usually the case with this tree, they are injured by frost and rarely come to perfection. The tree is growing on what is known as the mound, and is rendered conspicuous by reason of the large and handsome leaves, which often measure ten inches in length. There are several unusually large specimens of the Sea-Buckthorn by the fence side on the southern boundary of the garden, the silvery, willow-like foliage rendering them both distinct and beautiful. One of the largest—a noble specimen—is of quite tree growth, being forty feet high with a stem girth of nearly four feet. *Cotoneaster frigida* has also attained to an unusually large size in the flower garden, and annually in October produces a heavy crop of its bright coral-like berries, which are, unfortunately, soon devoured by the birds.

Of Elms, both English and Scotch, there are several majestic specimens, the far-reaching branches

THE FLOWER GARDEN, REGENT'S PARK

[*To face p.* 34.

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of which sweep the greensward and extend to fully ninety feet in diameter of spread. The Chestnut Avenue is quite a feature of the gardens, especially during the flowering season. Various species of Bamboo do well, including Simonii, Metake, Nigra, Aurea and others. In the Spring bed near the entrance from Park Square east is a most interesting collection of early flowering shrubs and plants, including bulbs, the majority of which are in full flower during the first three months of the year. The shrubs include clumps of such uncommon species as the Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis*), Forsythias, Mezereons, Cornelian Cherry, early flowering Rhododendrons, and *Erica codonodes*; while the Christmas Rose and a host of Anemones, Chionodoxa, Squills, the Wood Lily, the less common Narcissus, and other early flowering bulbous plants, lend variety to the bed. Of late years a number of rare ornamental shrubs and trees have been planted in the flower garden, but the list of such as succeed well in a smoky locality is somewhat restricted.

On the Marylebone Green side an herbaceous border extends for the full length of the garden. It is four hundred yards long and twelve feet wide, and contains nearly every procurable species and variety of herbaceous plants. In the pond will be found a selection of the best water-lilies, including some of Marliac's choicest hybrids, the Cape Pond Weed, Water Soldier, Flowering and Golden Rush, Villarsia, Bogbean and other aquatic plants. Many marsh-loving plants, such as the Gunnera, Flowering Rush, Mocassin Flower (*Cypripedium spectabile*), Cranberry, Irises, Ornamental Grasses and Royal Fern occupy the banks of the pond.

Flower culture is extensively carried on at many other points of the Park, notably by the side of the Broad Walk, where thousands of spring flowering bulbs have been planted of late years, these extending from the flower garden to the Park gate at St. Mark's

Bridge. On the northern bank of the lake there is a large collection of Croci and other bulbous plants growing on the grass, while near the fountain at Gloucester and Charles Street gates bedding out is also engaged in annually. The gardens attached to the various gate lodges are also planted twice each year, in the spring with bulbs and later on with summer flowering plants; while Primrose Hill has likewise come in for a share of attention in this way.

Exclusive of bulbs, the number of bedding plants annually dealt with in Regent's Park is 154,500, the total area of the flower beds being just over an acre, while the borders extend to about a like area. The herbaceous borders cover a space of fully one and three-quarter acres and contain upwards of 17,000 plants.

TREE AND SHRUB GROWTH IN REGENT'S PARK

Although the forest of Middlesex was deforested early in the thirteenth century, yet the timber on the present site of Regent's Park would appear to have escaped the general destruction, for we find that as late as Queen Elizabeth's time the woods afforded excellent shelter for game, as also a hiding-place for conspirators. But later, during the Commonwealth, 1,976 trees were marked in Marylebone Park for the navy, the remainder being valued at £1,774 8*s*. To-day, however, the trees in Regent's Park are remarkable for neither age nor size, for with the exception of a few old Elms scattered over the Park, the last remains of the Middlesex forest, in the shape of five hollow, gnarled Oaks, were removed from Primrose Hill in 1882.

It is remarkable that although at one time the old Marylebone fields contained so large a number of Oaks suitable for ship-building, yet at the present day there is hardly a well-developed specimen of this tree to be found in Regent's Park.

Judging from the size of some of the present trees, principally Elms and Plane, they were planted about the time the Park was laid out in 1812, with the exception of a few large specimens of the former on Cumberland and Marylebone Green and others dotted here and there over the grounds, particularly near the south-western side of the lake, most of which are the remnants of old hedgerows and about a century and a half old. There are two remarkably fine specimens of the Elm in the flower garden, each about

sixty feet in height and with far-spreading branches, which spread the greensward. The clayey soil of the Park generally would account for the large Oak trees which were of sufficient size, as above stated, to be chosen for the navy, but generally speaking the stiff, unctuous clay, which retains excessive moisture in winter and becomes baked up and cracked during dry weather, cannot be considered as at all suitable for the successful cultivation of the majority of our woodland trees. Of the London Plane there are many magnificent specimens, particularly by the lake side, while near the Hanover Gate entrance the Maple has attained to a large size. Here, however, the soil has been much enriched by top-dressing at the time of building the Crown houses.

The Horse-chestnut thrives well when the atmospheric conditions and clayey soil are taken into account; indeed the avenue of these trees in the flower garden has been described by some writers as the finest around London. Though their height is not remarkable, certainly their shape is perfect.

The Cornish Elm, as well as the English, does well, and has attained to fair proportions by the Broad Walk.

The Poplars on Primrose Hill have succeeded remarkably well, for although only planted twenty-five years ago many are now fully forty feet in height—indeed the Poplar Avenues are now a distinct feature of the Hill. Of the less common trees, the line of Walnut-leaved Ash, which borders the northern side of the Barrow Hill, is, perhaps, the most remarkable, for it is seldom that such healthy specimens of this particular tree are to be found around London. The common cut-leaved Beam tree (*Pyrus*) and the double pink- and white-flowered Hawthorns are also conspicuous objects by the gymnasium, indeed all over Primrose Hill and by the banks of the Regent's Canal. *Pyrus malus floribunda* grows well and has attained to large dimen-

sions in several parts of the Park, notably by the bandstand, in the flower garden and by the Inner Circle Road; while the by no means common *Cotoneaster frigida,* when laden with its clusters of coral berries, is quite a feature of several parts of the Park, especially the flower garden, where it has attained to quite tree size, and would seem to revel in the stiffish soil of that part of the grounds. Several remarkably large specimens of the Maple are growing on the sloping ground from the Park entrance at Hanover Gate to St. Dunstan's. They are in excellent health, and by their deeply divided light-green foliage have a decidedly ornamental appearance. In years gone by many fine Beech trees were growing on the banks of the canal in the Park, but these have one by one disappeared; one giant specimen, however, perhaps the largest in London, still occupies a commanding site in the beautiful grounds attached to North Lodge. The gradually increasing impurities of the atmosphere have of late years told hardly on many trees that once flourished in the London area, but with the electrification of the underground and other railways and the substitution of gas for coal in cooking, it is to be hoped that at no very distant date many trees and shrubs which now show signs of distress will be able to eke out a favourable existence in the London area.

The Indian Bean (*Catalpa bignonioides*) promises well in the private enclosure and flower garden; while a goodly specimen of the Strawberry tree (*Arbutus*) adorns one of the entrances to the private enclosure near Hanover Gate, where it produces flowers and fruit in abundance. Among shrubs the Witch-hazel, the Forsythia, Golden Privet, Sumach and a few other specimens succeed in a fairly satisfactory manner when the impurities of the atmosphere are taken into account. American or peat-loving shrubs do not thrive so well, although the beautiful early flowering *Rhododendron praecox* has survived and

bloomed freely for several years in a bed mainly composed of peat near the lake side as well as in the flower garden.

The Heaths are unsatisfactory, so are the Azaleas and the allied members of this family. Bamboos are well represented, and such hardy species as Simonii, Metake and Aurea develop into goodly specimens, though they look shabby during winter and early spring. In a recess on the northern side of the mound in the flower garden there is a representative collection of these plants, most of which have attained to a large size and have a decidedly ornamental appearance in summer. Few of the Coniferous section of trees succeed well at all in London, the exception being the common Yew, Savin Juniper and deciduous Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), all others wearing a meagre, scanty-foliaged and miserable appearance. Both in the Royal Botanical Gardens and grounds of the Zoological Society the deciduous Cypress has attained to a height of about fifty feet and looks healthy and happy; while some clumps of the Savin Juniper by the lake side in the Park show that this member of the Conifer family can thrive in a smoky locality. Some of the Brooms do remarkably well when attention is paid to the class of soil in which they are planted, and such species as *Cytisus albus*, *C. praecox*, *C. schipkaensis* and *C. andreana* (the Purple Broom) do fairly well. Several species of Magnolia may be said to grow well, but their growth is not to be encouraged, and the flowers get discoloured by atmospheric impurities. *Acer negunda variegata*, though worthy of extensive culture, cannot be said to be at home in our soil; but the Almonds thrive with remarkable vigour, and may be seen of large size in many parts of the Park. The silvery willow-like foliage of *Pyrus salicifolia* is always a welcome spring feature of the Park, where it thrives well and has attained to a large size near the Park entrance at Ulster Terrace.

Many visitors to the Park are charmed (in early spring) with the abundantly produced creamy yellow flowers of the Cornelian Cherry (*Cornus mas*), exceptionally fine specimens of which are growing near the lake side by the long bridge. The flowers being produced before the leaves and early in the season have a conspicuous and pleasing appearance, especially as some of these shrubs are nearly twenty feet high and as much in spread of branches.

Buddleia variabilis, with its long spikes of violet flowers, seems to be quite at home in stiffish soil. Various species of the Dogwood may be planted with safety, while *Corylopsis pauciflora,* a near ally of the Witch-hazel, attains to large proportions and flowers freely. Of the Hawthorns the Tansy-leaved (*Crataegus tanacetifolia*) and the better forms of the double pink and white are quite at home; and large numbers of these have recently been planted, which in a score of years hence should adorn the Park with their early spring flowers.

Many species of both trees and shrubs are at present under trial in the nurseries, including some of the rarer Daphnes, Deutzia, Eucryphia and Corylopsis. The Lilacs are excellent shrubs for smoky localities, especially the Persian and Japanese forms, and thrive everywhere; so is the Bladder Senna (*Colutea*), with its curiously inflated seed-pods, various species of Acacia, particularly some of the varieties of Psued-Acacia, Rhus or Sumach, with its beautifully cut foliage and wig-like flowers, and the Laburnums. *Olearia Haastii* and *O. macrodonta*, too, are excellent shrubs for town planting, and delighting in stiffish soil thrive well in the Park, and a clump of considerable size may be seen on the mound in the flower garden. They are evergreen shrubs of neat habit, with foliage that is silvery on the under side and flower with the utmost freedom. *Cotoneaster horizontalis*, of low-spreading and neat growth, does well, a fitting companion, also quite at

home here, being the far too little-known Conglomerate Ivy (*Hedera conglomerata*). The Periwinkles (*Vinca major* and *V. minor*) may be seen in good condition by the side of the Outer Circle Road, where they spread about freely and flower profusely.

Several species of Mock Orange (*Philadelphus*) flower freely and have attained to a large size; while the curious *Shepherdia argentea*, really a seaside shrub, seems to be quite at home in the Park. Of course, of the commoner shrubs we have the Aucuba, Laurel, Privet, Dogwood and Box doing well, though the impure atmosphere tells hardly on even such hardy subjects. In every case, however, where planting is to be carried out, the stiff clay is first removed and suitable soil substituted, for it is only by so doing that success will crown the efforts of the planter. No doubt the trees of the future in the London parks are the Plane, Acacia, Catalpa, Sycamore, Pyrus and one or two species of Poplar and Willow.

In her delightful book *The Folks of Old Marylebone*, Mrs. Baillie-Saunders mentions that it was beneath one of the trees in Regent's Park that the poetess, Miss Elizabeth Barrett, after long looking up at the leaves and sky, consented to marry Robert Browning. Mrs. Baillie-Saunders told me that the tree was one of those growing in the Park near York Gate, though the particular specimen is not known, and a picture of the occurrence is given in her book.

Taken as a whole, the largest trees in the Park are growing on the northern slope of the Canal bank from the North Bridge to Primrose Hill Bridge, and consist of Ash, Elm, Beech, Hornbeam and Thorns—the latter during May and June being a pleasing feature of the water when viewed from any of the bridges. Amongst old trees that have disappeared mention may be made of the gnarled and pollarded

Oaks on Primrose Hill, which are referred to elsewhere in this book, and an old Willow, which stood on the bank of the lake nearly opposite Clarence Gate, and whose far-spreading branches reached over the water and saved many lives at the time of the great ice accident. Owing to decay it was cut down some years ago.

Several commemoration trees have been planted in the Park, including three on Marylebone Green and three on Primrose Hill. Those in the Park are labelled as follows—

"Planted on June 22, 1897, to commemorate the 60th year of the reign of Queen Victoria."

"Planted to commemorate the Coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, 9th August, 1902."

"Planted to commemorate the Coronation of King George V, 22nd June, 1911."

Similar inscriptions are attached to the three commemoration trees on Primrose Hill.

FUNGI IN REGENT'S PARK

Both in the Park and at Primrose Hill, particularly where the ground is shut off from the public, the number of Fungi to be met with is quite considerable.

The Common Mushroom (*Agaricus campestris*) is by no means uncommon, and in various parts it is collected regularly for edible purposes, so too is the Horse Mushroom (*A. arvensis*), both of which frequently crop up, especially where the ground has been top-dressed with sweepings from the roads and streets. Two other edible Fungi, not very common, are the Oyster Mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) and the Blewits (*Tricholoma personata*), both of which may be seen in the Park, the former being readily recognised by its purplish stem, while the mouse-coloured cups of the Oyster Mushrooms are usually found around the trunks of decaying and dead trees. Frequently on the old Elms in the flower garden, indeed on diseased trees all over the Park, may be seen the *Polyporus squamosus,* which is readily recognised by its large size, leathery consistency and scaly surface. *Agaricus almorius* is rarer than the last, but is sometimes seen on the Elm trees by the Broad Walk.

The Beefsteak Fungus (*Fistulina hepatica*) and *Polyporus cuticularis* may be seen on the Beech, and the curious Jew's-ear Fungus (*Hirneola auricula-Judae*) occurs plentifully on Elders, wherever these are growing in the Park. Some of the old Ash trees are afflicted with *Polyporus hispidus*, and occasionally with *Lentinus tigrinus*, while *L. dunalii,* which is a

beautiful species, has been detected more than once on the same tree.

The Beefsteak Fungus, as before stated, may occasionally be seen, but as its favourite host is the Oak, its presence in the Park is considerably limited, as few of these trees are now to be found.

The magnificent scarlet Fungus *Agaricus muscarius* may be seen occasionally by the side of the Inner Circle Road and in the flower garden by Chester Gate beneath Birch trees. It is poisonous. Another poisonous species is the Stinking Amanita (*Amanita phalloidea*) and the Stinkhorn (*Phallus impudicus*), both of which occur sparingly in the Park.

The jelly-like *Tremella folicea* is not uncommon, as is also the Inky Mushroom (*Coprinus atramentarius*), which though edible in a young state has a disagreeable appearance when melting away like ink. What is known as the "Champignon" (*Marasmius oreades*) is found occasionally in the grounds of the Royal Botanical Society. It is edible, and by many considered as one of the most delicate flavoured of all the fungus family. Its occurrence on the grass both in the Park and grounds of the Royal Botanical Society is not uncommon.

The above must only be considered as a few of the many species of Fungus now found in the Park and at Primrose Hill, and for which the fields and thickets of old Marylebone Park were at one time remarkable.

BIRD AND ANIMAL LIFE IN THE PARK

As might be expected from its well-wooded surroundings, bird life is plentiful in the Park, which is further encouraged by the Park rules and privacy of several of the shrubberies and adjoining grounds.

A large number of waterfowl, both native and introduced, find a congenial home on the lake and its islands, the latter, especially those at the northern end, being quite a sanctuary and breeding-ground for many of the rarer kinds. At times as many as three hundred waterfowls may be seen on the lake, but the numbers fluctuate with arrivals from and departures to other waters in the Metropolis. The more ornamental kinds of Ducks and Geese are well represented, while Swans, Cormorants, Divers, Grebe and Moorfowl are quite at home on these waters. Two of the rarer, certainly the most ornamental species of Duck, the Mandarin and Carolina, find a congenial home on the waters of the lake, and are of particular interest to the public by reason of their neat shape and ornamental plumage. Rare kinds occasionally visit the lake, as during the autumn of 1908, when specimens of the Mandarin, Carolina and Rosy-billed Duck all put in an appearance at the same time and remained for several weeks, but being unpinioned flew off again. The Shoveller, Gadwall, Sheldrake (Australian, ruddy and common), Spoonbill, and our Native Teal, Widgeon and Mallard, may all be seen in numbers; while the Tufted and Pink-eyed Divers divert the public by their diving feats after food.

The Cormorants too afford considerable amusement when fishing; they remain for a long time beneath

water, and rarely come to the surface without their quarry.

Geese are well represented and breed freely, particularly the Chinese, Sebastopol, Canadian, Pink-footed, Magellanic and Bernicle. A pair of Canadian Geese visited the lake during the winter of 1908 and remained for several weeks. Both the black and the white Swans breed regularly. Kingfishers visit the waters frequently, but do not breed, though the Lesser Grebe has reared its young, as has the Coot and Moorhen. The Sandpiper and Heron pay occasional visits, and at least three species of Gull may at times be seen, the Common Herring Gull annually rearing its young on one of the islands. Of crossbred waterfowls the most interesting are the produce of the Canadian and Sebastopol and the Grey Lag and Pink-footed Geese. The Carolina Duck has nested on several occasions, as has the Pintail, while the Cormorants have formed nests and laid their eggs, though no young has been produced. The Wild Duck or Mallard breeds regularly, and at times as many as two hundred may be seen on the lake.

Carrion Crows, which have been on the increase of late years, do considerable damage to the young waterfowls, but they have been kept in bounds of late by destroying both them and their nests in various parts of the Park. They have on several occasions been seen to carry off young Ducks, picking them up from the water on the lake as would a Hawk, and conveying them to an adjoining tree, where they were devoured at leisure. Sparrows and other birds have also been caught and eaten by these voracious Crows. The following is a complete list of the various kinds of waterfowls at present on the lake—

White Swan.
Black Swan.
Chinese Goose.
Sebastopol Goose.
Bernicle Goose.
Egyptian Goose.
Pink-footed Goose.
Brent Goose.

Magellanic Goose.
Canadian Goose.
Bean Goose.
Common Gull.
Herring Gull.
Cormorants.
Widgeon.
Pintail.
Australian Sheldrake.
Common Sheldrake.
Ruddy Sheldrake.
Mallard.
Tufted Pochard.
Mandarin.
Shoveller.
Teal.
Call or Decoy Duck.
Tufted Diver.
Coot.
Blue Coot.
Garganey.
Gadwall.
Muscovy Duck.
Carolina Duck.
Pochard Duck.
Whistling Duck.

British Birds.—These are well represented, especially when the generally unfavourable conditions under which they exist in our London Parks are taken into account. Some species, as the House Sparrow and the Starling, are, perhaps, too abundant, the former doing considerable damage to shrubs and flowers, the Crocus amongst the latter being its particular favourite. Towards evening thousands of Starlings assemble for roosting on the well-wooded islands on the lake, their song at that time being almost deafening. During a stormy night in October 1906 a most unusual occurrence took place, large numbers of these birds being washed to the ground and drowned by the heavy and continuous rain. Under a Thorn-tree near the centre of one of the islands, I counted twenty-three dead birds on the following morning, and about seventy on other parts of the adjoining ground. The Thrush and Blackbird are plentiful and breed regularly in the Park, which may also be said of the Green Linnet, Hedge-sparrow, Robin, Wren, Fly-catcher, Blue Tit, Nuthatch, Starling, Wood-pigeon and Cuckoo. The Golden-crested Wren, Bunting, Long-tailed Tit, Goldfinch, Sedge Warbler, Nightingale, Bullfinch, Wagtail, Siskin, Cole Tit and Garden Warbler have all

been seen on several occasions. The Woodcock has more than once been seen on Primrose Hill, and in May 1908 a specimen was brought to me that had been caught outside the flower garden near Park Square. After the southern side of Primrose Hill had been reclaimed in 1906, large flocks of Wood-pigeons, numbering often several hundred, frequented the ground in order to feed on the rape with which the young grass was mixed. But the Wood-pigeon, in a semi-domesticated state, is plentiful all over the Park, and breeds freely, even within reach of the public. Both the Turtle-dove and Australian Crested Dove have been introduced to the Park and are doing well. Wild Doves have on several occasions stayed during the summer months with the tame Doves in my garden, but always disappeared towards autumn. One, however, which appeared in April 1907, mated with a tame bird and has remained ever since. Sea-gulls have increased greatly during the past five years, owing, no doubt, to their being fed by the public on the lake. Last winter I counted about three hundred on the lake at the same time, while six years ago rarely did one of these birds visit these waters.

In November 1907 a friend and myself saw a specimen of the Buzzard Hawk in the grounds of the Toxophilite Society, where it remained for a considerable time, probably an escape from the Zoo. The Sparrow Hawk, too, was frequently seen in the trees by the Inner Circle Road of the Park during the autumn of 1908, as also the Barn Owl, but the latter is frequently heard.

When the northern end of the lake was being cleared of mud in 1907-8, a Kingfisher haunted the ground for the small roach and gudgeon that got stranded in some of the shallow pools. Regularly night and morning it visited the spot, and did not seem at all inconvenienced by the number of men at work. Small flocks of the Wheatear visit the Park about the beginning of April, frequenting the cricket-

grounds. They were particularly plentiful in the spring of 1909, as many as thirty having been counted in a flock. The Sandpiper has been seen on the lake on several occasions, but only in the early morning. Chaffinches are rare during the summer, but towards winter small flocks occasionally appear, especially by the lakeside, where the waterfowls are fed. Twice during the autumn of 1910 I saw a pair of Goldfinches, and on four occasions the Grey Linnet, both by no means common birds, or that one would expect to see in London. Towards evening a Heron may often be seen making its way to the pond in the grounds of the Botanical Society; while another, for many months at a time, took up its abode on one of the islands of the lake, being, no doubt, attracted by the number of fish.

People seem surprised when I tell them that within five minutes' walk of Baker Street Railway Station, and the almost incessant din of Marylebone Road, such birds as the Cuckoo, Fly-catcher, Robin and Wren have of late years reared their young. But this is not all, for in addition to these the Kingfisher, Nightingale, Golden-crested Wren, Lesser Grebe, Bunting, Goldfinch, Bullfinch and others have been seen on several occasions. The grounds referred to are in the Inner Circle of the Regent's Park, and include, in addition to my own garden and the adjoining shrubberies, the well-wooded grounds of the Botanic and Toxophilite Society. These places, in addition to the grounds of St. John's Lodge, the Holme, and Bedford College, afford peculiar charms to bird-life; in fact, they are a sort of sanctuary and breeding ground in the north-western corner of the great Metropolis. The Spotted Fly-catcher breeds regularly, sometimes twice in the same season. It feeds exclusively on winged insects, and when on the outlook for food generally takes its stand on a post or isolated branch, from which it darts off on the approach of an insect, catching it by a short and

rapid movement, returning generally to the same spot it had quitted. It has keen powers of sight, and I have seen it secure an insect at a distance of eighteen feet. No bird probably has a more active time during the breeding season than the Fly-catcher, and I have on several occasions towards evening seen it feed its young thirty-five times in the course of an hour.

There were two Robins' nests in the garden this season, and we can always count on one each year. It is a most companionable bird and a charming songster, singing even during rain, though in an unusually low and plaintive note. The Wren, too, has bred regularly for many years, but it is a shy bird, and builds nests that it does not make use of, probably to detract attention from the right nest. It is a sweet little songster, and being strictly insectivorous is of value for destroying aphides and wood lice. The Nightingale I have only heard on three occasions, twice during last summer, and once in 1903. It always frequents the same place—a thick shrubbery on the eastern side of the garden, and was listened to with delight by several members of my family in the early hours of a June morning on two successive days in 1909. In connection with this bird it may be interesting to note that about seventy years ago it was plentiful in old Marylebone Park; in fact, the old hedgerows and thickets were then remarkable for the number of Nightingales they contained.

In a large Poplar tree which overhangs the Archery grounds the Missel Thrush has bred regularly for the past six years. It is an uninteresting bird, of jerky flight, with a harsh note, and often breeds twice in the same season. It and the Heron are sworn foes. Both the Blackbird and Thrush breed regularly, and rear numbers of young. The Starling, too, rears its young in the chimney-pots and eaves of the houses, and is a valuable bird if only on account of the number of Oak-leaf Roller Moths and other injurious insects that it destroys. A young Cuckoo was reared

in a Robin's nest in the ivy of my house in 1905, and in connection with this it is a curious circumstance that only on two previous occasions had the bird been seen in the trees around the house. The Hedge Sparrow breeds regularly in the Privet hedges in these grounds, and though it feeds mainly on insects and worms, yet is frequently found eating seed with the Doves on the lawn. It has a strange habit of commencing its song towards dusk of a winter's evening, and continuing till it is quite dark; and I have more than once heard it sing during the night in the month of February. The Hedge Sparrows live in pairs, and wherever one is seen the other is not far distant. The young have voracious appetites, and providing for them is an unceasing duty on the part of the parents. The Turtle Dove, both wild and domesticated, breeds regularly, sometimes nesting three times during the same season. Several wild birds have taken up with the tame ones, and one in particular has remained constantly for four years. They do little or no harm in the garden, and are of interest in many ways, but especially for the rather unusual trait of expelling their young from the nest before they are able to fly or provide for themselves. I have known the Dove use the same nest twice in succession, and to expel the young birds before they could fly in order to lay its eggs, the male bird in this instance feeding the young. The Pigeon or Ring Dove nests annually in several parts of the grounds, where towards autumn large numbers come to feed on the berries of the Elder. The Dove, too, will eat Elder-berries. Two or three times I have seen the Pied Wagtail running along the lawn picking up insects, and also by the lake side, but it does not breed, which may also be said of the Yellow-hammer, Hawfinch and Blackcap, all of which I have at times detected in these grounds.

A little flock of the Long-tailed Tit visited us last year, but they did not remain, merely flitting from

one shrub and tree to another, all the time uttering their plaintive call to each other. Twice I have seen the Golden-crested Wren, and on several occasions the Goldfinch and Sedge Warbler. The Linnet has bred once, and so has the Bullfinch, but they are not constant visitors. A nest of Blue Tits was reared by the Inner Circle Road in 1908, but the Great Tit I have noticed only once.

The Redstart I have repeatedly seen during the winter and early spring, and once I saw a Hawfinch, which is readily detected by its large beak and the white iris of the eye. A friend and myself watched a Sparrow Hawk on the trees round the Toxophilite grounds, but it was probably an escape from the Zoo, though its plumage and flight caused us to think otherwise. The Swallow and Swift occasionally appear, but are by no means plentiful, and neither has nested, as far as I am aware. As before stated, the House Sparrow is abundant; indeed, is fast becoming a nuisance, not only with reference to numbers, but as destroying large numbers of spring flowers. The Barn Owl is not uncommon, but is oftener heard than seen. In connection with the above notes it should be remembered that all the specimens referred to have been seen in the Inner Circle of the Park and adjoining grounds by myself, the list of those I have seen in the Park being much longer. An interest in birds and their ways affords a vast amount of pleasure, particularly when the note and flight are known to the observer and become points of ready recognition.

The following is a complete list of the birds that I have seen in the Park, those marked with an asterisk having bred there—

Sparrow Hawk.
Buzzard.
*Barn Owl (plentiful in 1908).
*Spotted Fly-catcher.
*Missel Thrush.
Fieldfare.
*Song Thrush.

Redwing.
*Blackbird.
*Hedge Accentor.
*Redbreast.
Redstart.
Stonechat.
Sedge Warbler.
*Garden Warbler.
Nightingale.
Whitethroat.
Golden-crested Wren.
*Blue Tit.
Cole Tit.
Long-tailed Tit.
*Pied Wagtail.
Ray's Wagtail.
Skylark.
Common Bunting.
Wheatear.
Siskin.
*Linnet.
*Bullfinch.
*Chaffinch.
*Starling.
*Carrion Crow.
Jackdaw.
Rook.
Wryneck.
*Wren.
Nuthatch.
*Cuckoo.
Kingfisher.
*Swallow.
Martin.
Swift.
*Turtle Dove.
Goldfinch.
*Wood Pigeon.
*Moorhen.
*Wild Duck.
Teal.
*Lesser Grebe.
Sandpiper.
*House Sparrow.
Tree Sparrow.
*Greenfinch.
Dipper (rare).
*Sea-gull.
Heron.
Woodcock.
Water-rail.

Animals.—These are few, as might be expected in a public park. The Fox, Hare, Rabbit and Mole became extinct shortly after the grounds were thrown open to the public, though during late years single specimens of all except the Mole have been seen on rare occasions. The Common Rat is abundant, and the Water Vole is occasionally seen by the lake-side; while both the Common and Long-eared Bat are by no means uncommon. Of Reptiles the Grass or Ringed Snake occasionally puts in an appearance, two having been caught in my garden during 1906, while another was found in the Park near the lake

during last summer. The Whip Snake, too, has been caught in the Park, but was probably an escape from the Zoo. Both the Common and Warty Newt, the Green Lizard, the Frog and Toad have all been found. Fish would include the Pike, Perch, Carp, Roach, Gudgeon and Stickleback, while Gold-fish are abundant in the flower garden pond, and a few were introduced to the waters of the lake in 1908. The Grey American Squirrel has been introduced to the Park, where it breeds regularly, and is a great source of attraction to visitors. The introduction of the Squirrel to the Park is an interesting story. Some years ago the Duke of Bedford presented a number to the Zoological Society, which were confined in an enclosure near the Diving Birds' House. Here they quickly increased, until thinning out their numbers was found desirable, when some were liberated by stretching a rope from one of the trees inside the fence to one outside, thus forming a bridge, which the Squirrels were not long in making use of. This was three years ago, and now they have increased so rapidly and spread so widely that they have been found from St. John's Wood on the one side to Greenwich and Deptford on the other. The Grey Squirrel is well known for its depredations to eggs and young birds, and though for this very reason it has been expelled from an estate to which it was introduced, it is hardly likely that a similar occurrence will take place in the London Parks. Escapes from the Zoo are occasionally to be seen in the Park. A specimen of the Diadem Snake from Australia was found on an island on the lake by one of the workmen, which, curious to say, had only escaped from the Reptile House a week before. In this short space of time it had not only travelled over the Park about half-a-mile, but had also swum through the water to the island on which it was found. Hares were plentiful in the Park, and coursing matches were frequently held here between 1824 and 1828. An otter was killed near the Regent's Park canal in 1863.

ENTOMOLOGY OF REGENT'S PARK

Insects, but particularly such as are injurious to trees and shrubs, are not only well represented at present, but from published accounts would appear to have been so ever since the present Park was formed. As long ago as 1841 we find that the celebrated landscape gardener Robert Marnock was called in to examine and report on the Elm trees growing alongside the Inner Circle Road and near the Broad Walk of the Park, many of these being sick, and others so unhealthy as to be beyond recovery.

Measures of rather a drastic nature were at once taken in hand, with the result that both the Goat Moth (*Cossus ligniperda*) and the Elm Bark Beetle (*Scolytus destructor*) were considerably reduced in numbers.

That they were not exterminated, however, we have proof at later dates, and at the present time both are to be found in the Park—indeed two Poplar trees were felled in 1905 in order to keep the Goat Moth in check. The Wood Leopard Moth (*Zeuzera aesculi*), which causes much mischief to the Spanish Chestnut and various species of Pyrus, is also present in some quantity, but the damage done by it is not great.

The Oak-leaf Roller Moth (*Tortrix viridana*) and the Holly-fly (*Phytomyza aquifolia*), particularly the latter, may be found in the flower garden, while *Cryptococcus fagi* has attacked the Beech in at least three different parts of the Park, but this is not to be wondered at when the widespread devastations of this insect all over the country are taken into account. Several examples of the Privet Hawk Moth (*Sphinx ligustri*) have been seen from time to time; while the

Lime Looper Moth (*Hybernia defoliaria*) does considerable damage to the foliage of the Lime trees, and the caterpillar of the small Ermine Moth to the foliage of the Spindle tree (*Euonymus*).

The above may be classed as insects that are injurious to trees and shrubs, but there are many other beautiful and non-destructive kinds that frequent the Park. Thus the Death's-head Moth has been detected more than once, while the Lackey Moth (*Clisiocampa neustria*), which, however, devours the leaves of several species of trees, and its beautifully-marked caterpillar is not uncommon.

Of Butterflies many species have been noticed in the Park, some rare and others remarkable for their beautiful colours—indeed, the list of such is much larger than one would expect in the very heart of the Metropolis.

The following list of Moths and Butterflies that frequent the Park and Primrose Hill has been compiled for me by J. Bryant Sowerby, Esq., F.L.S., of the Royal Botanic Gardens—

Butterflies

Pieris brassicae.
Anthocharis curdamines.
Gonepteryx rhamni.
Vanessa urticae.
Satyrus ianira.
Chortobius pamphilus.
Thecla rubi.
Polyommatus phlaeas.
Lycoena argiolus.

Moths

Smerinthus ocellatus.
Acherontia atropos.
Sphinx convolvuli.
Macroglossa stellatarum.
Sesia tipuliformis.
Cossus ligniperda.
Hepialus hectus.
Nola cucullatella.
Chelonia caja.
Arctia lubricipeda.
Liparis chrysorrhae.
Orgyia pudibunda.
Bombyx neustria.
Rumia crataegata.
Metrocampa margaritaria.
Salenia lunaria.
Odontopera bidentata.
Crocallis elinguaria.

THE ENCLOSURE, OR THE PRIVATE GROUNDS

This portion of the Park, which extends along the entire southern side of the lake, is reserved for the use of key-holders, the majority of whom live in the Crown property adjoining. The Enclosure consists of a long, narrow strip of ground lying between the Outer Circle Road and the ornamental waters, and extends in an almost unbroken line from York Bridge to Hanover Gate.

It is tastefully laid out and planted, and is traversed for its entire length by a wide, well-kept road, alongside which numerous arbours and seats are conveniently arranged. There are many fine old trees in these grounds, which lend a welcome shade during hot weather, and combined with the well-kept road and greensward, render the place a favourite resort at all seasons, but particularly during spring and summer. Of the Catalpa or Indian Bean, the Strawberry tree or Arbutus, flowering Crab and ornamental flowering Thorns there are many fine examples; while the beautiful Weeping Willow on the island by York Bridge attracts notice from whichever point it is viewed, the long, drooping spray falling down to near water level in graceful profusion. The largest Plane trees in the Park are some of those opposite to Hanover Terrace in the Private Enclosure.

The Catalpa grows freely, and though none of the specimens are remarkable either for age or size, their healthy appearance—ample foliage and conspicuous flowers—betokens their suitability for the positions in which they have been planted.

By the lake side opposite Cornwall Terrace may be seen several specimens of the by no means common heart-leaved Alder (*Alnus cordata*), the large fruit of which is annually produced in plenty.

Croquet is allowed in the Enclosure at the end nearest to Hanover Gate, where a specially prepared ground has been provided for the game. Other games are prohibited.

About a century ago the Tybourne river wended its way through these grounds from east to west, and, as mentioned elsewhere, the remnants of it still exist in a culvert with which the stream was encased about the time the Park was laid out. There is little doubt, also, that another branch of the Tybourne originated at some small ponds near the present Archery Hall and following the boundary of the present Enclosure joined the main stream near Clarence Gate. To the waters of the lake these grounds are greatly indebted for their natural beauty and the general esteem in which they are held.

THE LAKE

THE origin of the ornamental waters, which consist of a lake with three widely-diverging bays or inlets, was the Tybourne stream, which, originating on the slopes of Hampstead Hill, flowed through the Park in a north-westerly direction, and on its way to the Thames formed the original series of small ponds.

A branch of the Tybourne, which had its source in the grounds of the Zoological Society and joined the main stream by the lake side near Clarence Gate, also contributed largely to the supply of water, as did another which flowed from some small ponds by the old farm buildings in the grounds of the present Toxophilite Society. This latter formed the narrow stretch of water from York to Clarence Bridge, near which latter it joined the main stream.

Less than one hundred years ago, and before the original York Bridge with its wooden hand-rail was widened, the stream was so narrow that it could readily be jumped across. According to a plan in the British Museum, dated 1790, the lake as we at present know it was not then formed, its place being partly occupied by a series of small ponds and an extent of low-lying marshy ground fed by the Tybourne and its branches. When the lake was enlarged to its present dimensions is not recorded, but evidently took place between 1796 and 1833, as a map of the Park of the latter date shows the area of water much as at present.

The original sources of supply have, however, long been done away with, the surface drainage of the Park forming an excellent and adequate substitute.

OLD YORK BRIDGE, 1817

[*To face p.* 60.

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Including the islands the lake is fully twenty-two acres in extent, the islands alone totalling three and a half acres. Five bridges, two of which carry the walk across an island at the western end of the lake, give access to all parts of the Park. The long bridge which spans the lake near the north-eastern end was erected in 1905, and the two smaller by the boat-house in 1906. These are of iron, as is also Clarence Bridge, which was put up in 1884. York Bridge, which carries the Outer Circle Road over the lake, was a narrow structure with wooden hand-rails in 1817, but soon after that date it was added to, the width being increased by eighteen feet and iron sides substituted for the wood.

There are six islands on the lake, four on that part to which the public have access, and two opposite St. John's Lodge, the Marquis of Bute's residence, these and the adjoining waters being carefully preserved as a sanctuary for aquatic and other birds, and where nesting and rearing the young can be carried on unmolested. The island at the western end on which the boat-house stands was last formed at the instigation of the Marquis of Hertford, who then occupied St. Dunstan's Lodge, he contributing £100 towards the expenses of cutting out the channel and planting the adjacent shrubberies. Portions of the islands in the main body of the lake were at one time used as kitchen gardens by the workmen of the Park, and the vegetables grown were said to have been of very superior quality.

On January 15, 1867, a terrible accident occurred on that part of the water which faces the Holme, a large field of ice giving way and immersing about two hundred persons, of whom forty were drowned. At this time the lake was of very unequal depth, but immediately afterwards the bottom was levelled over and the sides concreted at a cost of £8,000. The average depth is now about four and a half feet. Another ice accident occurred on Saturday, January 9,

1886, when fully one hundred persons were immersed, but fortunately no lives were lost.

To fill the lake with water £600 was paid in 1870, the outlet to sewer at Sussex Place being then made at a cost of £478.

Planting has been carefully carried out both on the islands and along the margin of the lake, and some noble Weeping Willows have a telling effect on both the northern and southern banks. But most remarkable, perhaps, in the way of vegetation is the vast number of the Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum*) with which the islands are adorned, and which re-appear from year to year in increasing numbers. They sometimes attain to a height of eight feet, and are so thickly produced that a perambulation of the islands is almost impossible during the spring and summer months. As a breeding screen for the waterfowl they are invaluable. On the northern bank of the lake are several well-established clumps of such little-known shrubs as the Cornelian Cherry, Polygonums, Tamarisk and Sea-Buckthorn; while the Catalpa or Indian Bean flowers profusely in the private gardens which extend from the boat-house to York Bridge. It is not too much to say that in viewing Regent's Park lake from almost any point, but especially from Clarence Bridge, the artificial is quite lost sight of, the general contour of water and islands being admittedly natural.

For the pleasure and convenience of the public one hundred boats are kept on the water, while a waterman patrols the lake to preserve order and to render assistance should accidents occur. The well-arranged and well-kept walks around the margin, with seats at convenient points, all contribute to the public enjoyment. The lake is well stocked with fish, including carp, roach and gudgeon, while a pike about seven pounds in weight was taken from the water in 1906. About thirty species of waterfowl, including many rare and interesting kinds, find a congenial home on the water and islands. Several rare and interesting

British birds frequent these waters, including the Kingfisher, which, however, does not breed, Lesser Grebe, Coot, Sandpiper, and three species of Gull, but as a chapter is devoted to the birds of the Park, further need not be said here. From old papers in H.M. Office of Works it is noted that in 1846 permission was given by Lord Canning for 110 persons to fish in the lake; and in 1851 a considerable sum of money was paid to a Mr. Bailey for barley for the waterfowls, thus showing that bird-life on the lake received attention even at an early date.

The American weed (*Elodea canadensis*) was particularly plentiful in the lake until 1882, when measures for its destruction were taken in hand, but to-day not a vestige of it is to be seen, the Swans and other waterfowls having quite exterminated this troublesome aquatic plant.

The boat-house, which was built in 1904, and takes the place of an old and dilapidated structure of an early date, is a great acquisition, where the building and repairing of boats used on the lake can be conveniently carried out. Adjoining is a smaller building for the storage of boating implements, and a dressing-room for the use of the ladies of the various clubs who practise rowing on the lake. The north-eastern end of the lake from the long bridge is not open for boating, but is preserved as a sanctuary for the waterfowl, where they nest and rear their young unmolested. On Sundays and holidays the water from Clarence to York Bridge is not open to the public for boating, and the islands are at all times kept private, forming as they do excellent breeding grounds for the waterfowls.

That portion of the lake from the Long Bridge to the extreme north-eastern end was cleaned out during the winter of 1907–8, the mud being utilised for top-dressing the grounds lying adjacent to the waters. About 7,000 fish, principally small roach and gudgeon, were then transferred to other waters. The

following winter 1908–9 the lake bottom from Clarence Bridge to the extreme southern end by the grounds of the Royal Toxophilite Society was cleared of mud, and about 20,000 fish transferred to the Thames and other waters; while in 1909–10 the mud was cleared from around the island by the boat-house. There is little mud in the body of the lake, so that altogether the waters may be considered in a pure and healthy condition.

THE OUTER AND INNER CIRCLES

In a perambulation of the Outer Circle Road at the Park, one cannot fail to be impressed with the varying and beautiful styles of architecture that have been associated with the Crown buildings which extend along the southern side in an almost unbroken line from Gloucester to Hanover Gate.

Proceeding westward from Park Square, which occupies the site at the northern end of Portland Place, originally intended as part of a large circus only one half of which was erected, we come to Ulster Terrace, which consists of eight houses adorned with Ionic columns. York Terrace comes next, and extends on both sides of the York Gate. It was built from the designs of Mr. Nash, and though consisting of sixty-one houses, has the appearance of but a single building, with a well-kept garden extending along the whole front of the terrace. It is in the Græco-Italian style of architecture.

Cornwall Terrace inclines northwards, the houses being of Corinthian architecture from the designs of Mr. Decimus Burton. On the pavement facing Cornwall Terrace there are ten very handsome lamp standards, which were placed there in 1824; they are claw-footed, standing upon sturdy pedestals of iron, around which are skeletons of ox heads with swags between. Clarence Gate comes next, forming the entrance to the Park from North Baker Street.

In the original design of the Crown houses around the Park, Cornwall Terrace joined hard up to Clarence

Terrace, there being no provision for an entrance to the Park at the top of Upper Baker Street. The house of Mrs. Siddons, the famous artiste, was at the top of this street, and from the window there was a delightful view of the Marylebone Park Fields. She wrote to the Prince Regent begging that her pretty view of the country might not be blocked out by the proposed buildings, and to this letter we owe the existence of the present Clarence Gate. Northwards from this gate stretches Clarence Terrace, which consists of only twelve houses built from the designs of Burton. Probably the finest views of the lake are seen from these houses. Sussex Place, built from the designs of Mr. Nash, is arranged in the form of a half moon with tastefully designed gardens in front. The last range of buildings on this side of the Park is Hanover Terrace, and is from the designs of Mr. Nash, next to which is Hanover Gate, the Lodge of which is a neat quadrangular building ornamented with statues. Proceeding further along the Outer Circle we come to Hanover Lodge, a handsome square building, and on the opposite side of the road is St. Dunstan's, the residence of Lord Londesborough. It is a beautiful building, and was designed by Mr. Decimus Burton. When St. Dunstan's Church in the Strand was pulled down in 1830, the clock was sold by auction and purchased for £210 by Lord Hertford, who erected the present villa. The clock and its accompanying figures of savages are carved in wood, each having in his right hand a club with which the hours are struck on a bell.

Beneath the clock are three statues of historic interest, those of King Lud and his two sons. When the Ludgate, which Stowe in his *Survey* designates as the sixth and principal gate of London, was repaired by Henry III in 1260, several images, including Lud and his sons, were added to the building. In the reign of Edward VI the heads were struck off, but Queen Mary had them replaced. In 1586 the old

KING LUD AND HIS SONS

[*To face p.* 66.

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gate being "sore decayed" was pulled down, and rebuilt at a cost of fully £1,500.

When the Ludgate was finally pulled down in 1760, Lud and his worthy sons were given by the City to Sir Francis Gosling, who intended to set them up at the east end of St. Dunstan's Church; but there was no room for the royal effigies, which were sent to end their days in the parish dust-house. A better fate, however, awaited them, for the late Marquis of Hertford purchased them and along with the clock set them up in his villa in Regent's Park.

An illustration of King Lud and his sons is here reproduced.

We next pass to Charles Street and the North Bridge, the latter of beautiful construction. Directly opposite this is Holford House, now known as the Baptist Training College, which was founded in 1810 at Stepney, and transferred to the Park in 1856. Further on, after passing Primrose Hill Bridge, is the principal entrance to the Zoological Society's gardens, an account of which is recorded elsewhere.

In continuing our perambulation of the Outer Circle, St. Mark's Bridge and another entrance to the Park at the termination of the Broad Walk are passed on our way to Gloucester Gate. The latter is one of the principal entrances to the Park, and a prominent feature of the eastern side. Originally there were two gate lodges, one on each side of the roadway, but space at this point being confined, one was removed. Gloucester Terrace follows next, and consists of eight houses with Ionic columns. Close to this is St. Katharine's College or Hospital, which was founded by Queen Matilda in 1148, but not on the present site, the present hospital dating from 1826, when it was removed on the formation of St. Katharine's Docks at Tower Hill. The building is a good example of Gothic architecture, and forms a quadrangle with the church on the eastern side. The curiously carved, historical pulpit is of particular

interest, and was given by Sir Julius Cæsar in 1621. This is one of the most ancient wooden pulpits now remaining to us, as before the Reformation those of stone were more usual. The monument of the Duke of Exeter (1447) is well worth seeing. On the opposite side of the road is the residence of Brinsley Marley, Esq., formerly head-master's house. Following on, we pass successively Cumberland Terrace, Chester Place and Terrace, Cambridge Terrace, St. Andrew's Place and Park Square East, which completes a tour of the Outer Circle. In Cambridge Terrace, overlooking the flower garden, stood till 1875 the Colosseum, which was described as a place of artistic and mechanical wonders. The building, which was opened in 1825, resembled a miniature of the Pantheon at Rome, and was designed by Mr. Decimus Burton. On the eastern side of Park Square a diorama was erected in 1823, but it was not a success, and in 1852 was converted into a chapel for the Baptist denomination.

The Inner Circle.—The piece of ground surrounded by the Inner Circle Road is occupied by the Royal Botanical Society, a description of whose gardens will be found in the chapter under that heading. Five houses flank the Inner Circle Road opposite the Botanic, these being St. John's Lodge, in the Grecian style of architecture, occupied by the Marquis of Bute; the Holme, built by Burton the architect, tenanted by Mr. Campbell Newington; South Villa, now the Bedford College for Women, at one time remarkable for its observatory which was erected in 1836, and from which several stars and asteroids were discovered by Dawes and Hind; the hall of the Toxophilite Society, of which an account is given elsewhere, and the park superintendent's house. The latter was erected in 1879, after the original house on the canal bank had been destroyed by the gunpowder explosion. The bridge over the eastern arm of the lake connecting the Outer and Inner Circle Roads, near York Gate, was one of the earliest constructions of its kind in the

THE LAKE AND COLOSSEUM

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Park. There is an engraving of the old bridge dated 1817 given in this book, which will not only point out its primitive appearance, but position with reference to the present road and Marylebone Church. The old bridge, which was narrow and with a wooden handrail, was added to and greatly improved at a later date.

The mansions referred to in this paper are for the greater part situated in or near the Outer Circle, a carriage drive which for nearly three miles encloses a large area of the Park; while a few are in the Park itself, and contiguous to the Inner Circle.

There are some interesting notes on the buildings in Regent's Park in *The Literary Pocket Book* for 1823, published by Mr. Charles Ollier, his concluding remarks being, "We cannot recommend a better thing to such of our readers as have leisure, than a day spent in wandering amidst the union of stately objects and rural beauty which constitute the charm of Marylebone Park."

REMARKABLE PERSONS WHO RESIDED NEAR THE PARK

In addition to Charles Dickens, who, as before stated, lived at 1, Devonshire Place, within a stone's throw of the Park, there is quite a long list of eminent persons who have resided in the close vicinity and used the grounds for the purpose of recreation and enjoyment.

At 1, York Gate, Macready the actor had his abode; while Turner, the greatest of landscape painters, lived within call of the Park in Harley Street, and in Chesterfield Street the great Charles Wesley.

The Italian exile and poet, Ugo Foscoli, was an early resident in the Park, while the gallant Earl of Dundonald lived in Hanover Lodge. Close to York Gate of the Park and behind the present parish church is what is known as the old church of Marylebone, which was built in 1741 to take the place of another structure, the one chosen by Hogarth for the plate in his *Harlot's Progress*, where he has introduced his "Rake at the altar with an old Maid."

The poet Byron was baptised in Marylebone Church in 1788, as was also Horatia, the daughter of Lord Nelson by Lady Hamilton, in 1803. Lord Bacon was married in the same church. In the graveyard attached to the old church may be seen the tomb of Charles the brother of John Wesley, Hoyle the author of *Whist*, Allan Ramsay the famous portrait painter, Ferguson the astronomer, and James Figg the prize-fighter, whose portrait figures in Hogarth's *Rake's Progress*. Mrs. Siddons the artiste lived for a long time within stone's throw of Clarence Gate, but the house she resided in was pulled down

in 1905; while Lady Byron, wife of the poet, resided and died at St. George's Terrace, on the boundary of Primrose Hill. The children of Dickens were during his residence at Devonshire Place for a time almost daily visitors to the Park.

Both Robert Browning and Miss Elizabeth Barrett were frequent visitors to the Park.

The villa of Mrs. Fitzherbert, the wife of George, Prince of Wales (afterwards George IV), stands on the north side of the Park near the north gate.

The great lexicographer Dr. Johnson lived in Castle Street and was a frequent visitor to the Park, as was also Michael Faraday, a famous scientific light of the nineteenth century.

Hogarth, who was a Marylebone gentleman, delighted in the Park, and Charles Wesley composed many of his famous hymns when jogging along the lanes and fields of old Marylebone farm, where both he and his white cob were familiar figures.

THE REGENT'S CANAL

THE canal was commenced in 1812 and opened for traffic on August 1, 1820. It begins at Paddington, and passing under Maida Hill, the Edgware Road, and St. John's Wood by a tunnel 372 yards long, skirts the side of Regent's Park and falls into a basin near the Jew's Harp, thence it passes on to Camden Town and Islington, and then by a tunnel into the City Road by Kingsland and Hackney, and soon to Stepney fields and Limehouse, where it joins the Thames. The total length is eight and three-quarter miles, with a fall from its commencement to finish of eighty-four feet. The stiff, clayey soil which was encountered when digging out the canal in Regent's Park was spread on the adjoining ground, a portion being burnt for ballast. At this time the district through which the cutting was made presented a by no means tidy appearance, but by levelling the soil and planting with suitable trees and shrubs a great change for the better was quickly brought about; indeed, in early spring the view of the May trees by the canal bank as seen from Primrose Hill Bridge is one of the prettiest features of that part of the Park. Unfortunately, owing to the heavy nature of the soil which was removed from the canal cutting and spread to a considerable depth on the adjoining ground without any previous preparations, many landslips have occurred, which more or less mar the appearance of portions of the sloping banks of the canal. By the making of the canal the waters of the Tybourne were intercepted near Charles Street Bridge, and the historic stream afterwards ceased to exist.

MACCLESFIELD (NOW NORTH) BRIDGE AND HOUSE OF PARK SUPERINTENDENT, 1827

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The North Bridge over the canal was the scene of a deplorable accident in 1874, in which three persons were killed and the bridge and much of the adjoining property destroyed. In the early morning five barges laden with merchandise and explosives were being towed by a steam tug along the canal, when just as a portion of the flotilla was passing under the bridge, an explosion occurred which not only wrecked the bridge and adjoining house of the park superintendent, but damaged large quantities of glass in the Zoological Society's garden and the houses adjoining the canal. The accompanying illustration shows the bridge and house of the park superintendent previous to this deplorable accident. The bridge was rebuilt on nearly the original principle, and the new house for the superintendent wisely transferred to its present more convenient position by the Inner Circle Road. At one time the Park workmen were paid their wages in an office which had been erected beneath the bridge, but this too was destroyed by the explosion. To this day the results of the explosion may be seen on a Plane tree which grows close by the northern side of the bridge, the trunk of which was sadly damaged by the concussion, the scars being still plainly visible. A terraced garden of neat design was attached to the house of the park superintendent.

Fishing is indulged in the waters of the canal, roach being the principal quarry.

In case of accidents a drag and a lifebuoy have been placed at each of the bridges, and a rope and drag at convenient places all along the canal bank within the Park boundary.

The Regent's Canal Co. are the owners of the canal, and maintain the fences on both sides of the water.

THE ROYAL BOTANICAL SOCIETY

NEARLY in the centre of the Park and surrounded by the Inner Circle Road are the grounds of the Royal Botanical Society.

Probably nowhere else in the great metropolis could a more ideal spot be found as a sylvan retreat, or one that is more entirely removed from the slightest evidence of proximity to a town.

The grounds have been laid out in a masterly way, and embrace both hill and dale, with well-arranged borders, shrubberies and plant houses, and a considerable area of water. There are many rare and interesting trees and shrubs to be found throughout the grounds, including amongst others fine examples of the weeping Dutch Elm, Catalpa or Indian Bean, the Weeping Ash, Ailanthus or Tree of Heaven, Evergeen Oak, various species of Pyrus and Crataegus, and one of the successors of Napoleon's Willow. The Practical Gardening School, which was commenced in 1897, is a valuable institution, the pupils of both sexes originally having been nominated by the Technical Education Board of the London County Council. At the end of a three-years' course of study, which embraces everything connected with horticulture and gardening, each pupil comes up for examination, the results being such as to warrant us in speaking highly of the system of education both in a practical and a theoretical way.

From an article which appeared in one of the horticultural papers we learn that a plot of ground in the Regent's Park was occupied up to the year 1838 by Jenkins, a nurseryman. "Rumour was," says Mr.

W. Sowerby, in his short history of the Society, "that this Inner Circle of the Park, being originally intended as the locality for a royal palace, was not included in the general plan of laying out and planting the Park. However, Her Majesty's Commissioners at the time, feeling that a botanic garden would not only be of use to London, but to the country generally, listened to the suggestions of the Society." The Duke of Richmond of that time was the first President, who was actively supported by the Duke of Norfolk, the Earl of Aberdeen, Lieut.-Col. Rushbrooke, Philip Barnes (the promoter), and James de Carle Sowerby, who was the earliest Secretary, and whose son and grandson have succeeded him at the post. The Prince Consort graciously accepted the office of President in 1856, and during the first fifty years, to 1889, only four changes had been made in the office of President, and these changes only in answer to the one law which governs and limits all life.

The area of the Royal Botanic Gardens is a little over eighteen acres, the highest point being 129 feet above sea-level. The state of the grounds when the Society assumed proprietorship was most unpromising, but under Robert Marnock's supervision they were absolutely transformed, and remain to-day the joy of all visitors and a feature of wonder to those who learn that the contour, undulation and general design are wholly artificial. Prior to his acceptance of curatorship of Regent's Park Botanic Garden, Mr. Marnock had discharged the same office at the Sheffield Botanic Garden, and his recommendation was due to Mr. J. Claudius Loudon, whose name we all revere. The first operation, after clearing the grounds, was forming the lake and the mound which lie to the right inward from the entrance gates, and the work necessitated the removal of many thousands of yards of stiff clay. A terrace was next formed at the north end on which the conservatory stands, a

building constructed of iron and built by Turner of Dublin in 1845, who subsequently built the palm-house at Kew.

The features of the garden remain almost identically the same now as when Marnock had completed his design, the chief alterations having been effected on the west side, and these only being merely a matter of slight re-arrangement. There are evidences on every side of a new impulse towards maintaining the grounds at their standard excellence, and adapting them to the horticultural developments of these later years. The herbaceous garden on the east side has been much improved in company with adjacent parts. This herbaceous plant collection is arranged in natural orders, and these in turn grouped in their natural affinities. The beds in our Botanic Gardens are generally straight and uniform, but in this case they are of all shapes and sizes, the larger the order, the larger the bed, and *vice versa*, which serves to impress upon the students the relative size of the orders, while not detracting from the facility for specific comparisons. The grouping is decidedly more ornamental than the usual formal method of arrangement.

From a purely botanical point of view there is much to interest the student, and probably nowhere else in this country can that curious and beautiful parasitic plant *Lathyrus clandestina* be seen in better condition than growing on the roots of a Willow tree by the waterside in these gardens, and where during the spring months it is much admired. Another parasitic plant, the greater Broomrope, also does well on the Ivy in another part of the grounds.

Between the conservatory and the herbaceous garden lie the plant structures, and the houses for medicinal and economic plants. The society has reason to value this department, and to be anxious for its new development, as it is found to be exceedingly useful, not only to medical and other students

JENKINS' THATCHED COTTAGE

(*See page 78.*)

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from the innumerable colleges in London, but to merchants, manufacturers and others; in fact, all persons interested in the economic products of the vegetable kingdom. Another useful feature in the herbaceous portion of the ground are the meteorological instruments and appliances. The sunshine recorder is on the tower on the mound, and in an enclosed space near by are the earth thermometers, from three inches to sixteen feet deep, and of special interest to gardeners and general cultivators. Daily records of all the instruments are kept from observations taken three times each day and printed in the Society's *Quarterly Record*. In addition to the large conservatory there is a house and warm water tank for the Victoria Regia and tropical aquatic vegetation, besides ferneries, orchid houses, stoves, greenhouses, propagating pits, frames for alpines and all kinds of ornamental bedding plants, and good workshops, potting shed and offices.

At the extreme west of the garden is the museum, secretary's office (J. B. Sowerby, F.L.S., is secretary), meeting-room, dwelling-house, and the recently erected and well-appointed experimental laboratory. The museum is also used as a lecture- and reading-room, and has a valuable botanical library attached. The students attending the Society's Practical Gardening School come from places far apart, and most of them are youths and maidens between the ages of fifteen and twenty-three. A three-years' syllabus is prepared, and this they adhere to, as in the similar schools and colleges elsewhere.

The exhibitions held by the Royal Botanical Society have a special distinction. These began in 1860, though flower shows have been yearly held since 1843, even before the gardens were finally completed; and in 1872 the Society's evening fêtes, which are now especially popular, were inaugurated. The Rhododendron exhibitions by Waterer & Sons of Bagshot—a floral treat of unsurpassable magnificence

—where about two thousand plants are so arranged as to form natural borders and beds, the somewhat subdued light in the tents showing the delicate colours of the flowers to perfection; the Rose displays by Messrs. Paul and others, and the hardy plant collections staged by various nursery firms at certain set periods of the summer, may also be referred to as work undertaken for the encouragement of horticulture, and in a secondary measure botany. In order to widen the scope of the society and increase the number of members the annual subscription was reduced in 1910.

The original house in which Mr. Jenkins lived, and which has been described as "a very picturesque thatched cottage" almost covered with Ivy, was removed when the present commodious secretary's house, offices and museum were built. The accompanying illustration, which is from a sketch preserved by the Sowerby family, shows the thatched cottage as it was previous to removal.

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IN THE GROUNDS OF THE ROYAL TOXOPHILITE SOCIETY

(*See page 79.*)

THE ROYAL TOXOPHILITE SOCIETY

Though founded in 1781, it was not till 1832 that the Toxophilite Society came to Regent's Park. The grounds, which are fully six and a quarter acres in extent, are entered from the Inner Circle Road and contain a large hall or club for the use of members, with a gate lodge at the entrance close to York Bridge. Whether for convenience or privacy no better situation in the Park could have been selected, and the ground, which is well planned and planted and carefully attended to, slopes quickly down to the eastern arm of the lake. The Archers' Hall is a capacious building and peculiarly suited for its requirements, with the secretary's office and members' dressing-room on the same floor, while beneath are the quarters of the caretaker. It contains a probably unique collection of bows and arrows, which have been got together from nearly every quarter of the world, and which have been artistically arranged in groups and figures by Colonel Walrond, the honorary secretary of the Society. A case of Chinese bows and arrows from tombs at Sak Karah is dated B.C. 2600; while there, too, may be seen the arrow with which Sir Ralph-Payne Galleway, Bt., made his famous throw in these grounds in 1905, when he beat all previous records in that respect.

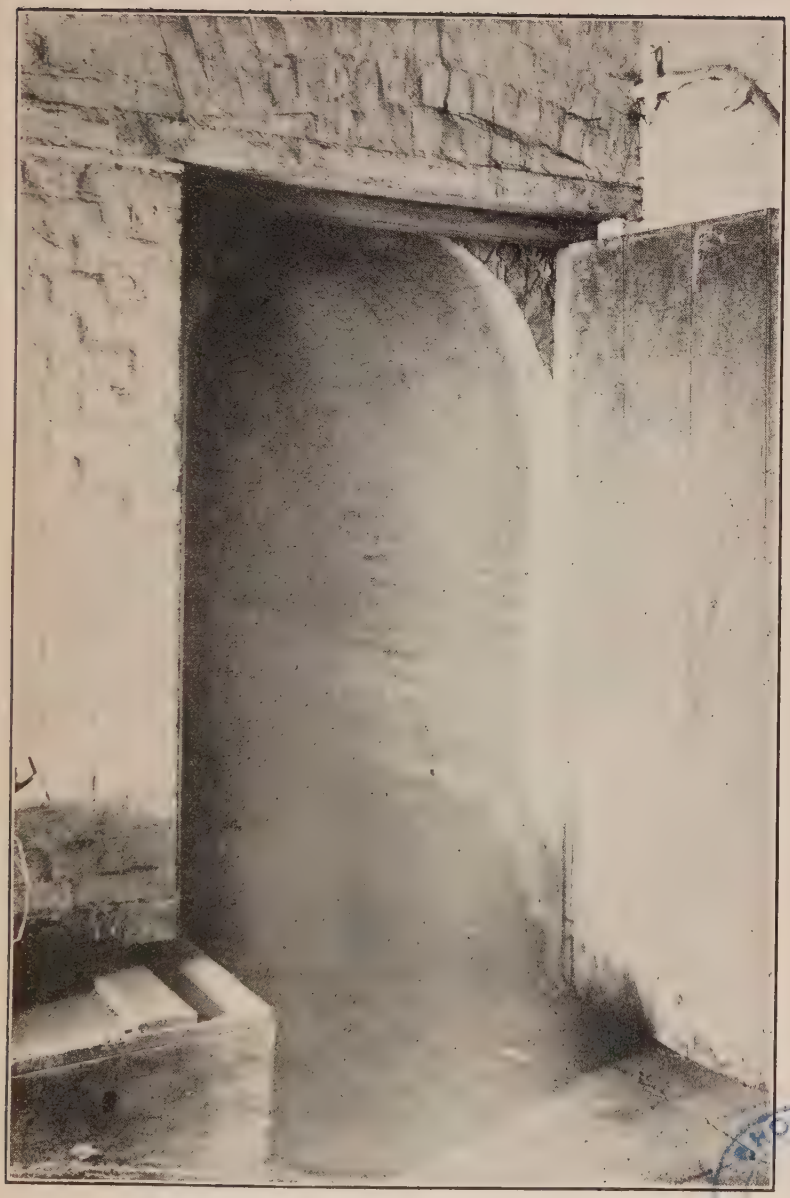
The panes of stained glass in one of the windows are the armorial bearings of the various donors. The hall is also used as a reading-room and contains, in addition to the leading periodicals, several interesting books of photographs and records of the Society. The original badge of the Old Finsbury Archers is in possession of the Society. Archery is practised

almost every day, and at stated periods prizes are shot for; while a lady's day is annually given on the 5th of July. Beneath the hall are some curiously constructed rooms of ancient date, probably remains of the original farm building or keeper's house attached to the Old Marylebone Park and Manor House. One of these rooms appears to be a larder for game, and was probably in use in connection with the old Manor House and when the Park was stocked with deer. Adjoining this is an underground passage, of which an illustration is given, almost six feet high, and sufficiently large for two or three persons to walk abreast. It runs in the direction of York Bridge, but has now got partly filled up owing to its having been broken into when draining the adjoining ground.

Formerly two small ponds, the waters from which formed the eastern arm of the lake, occupied a portion of these grounds in connection with one of the farmyards and buildings of old Marylebone Park.

King George IV, King William IV, the late Prince Consort, and King Edward VII have successively been patrons of the Archery Society. The badges, silver plate and other treasures of the Society are most interesting, particularly the silver shield presented by Catherine of Braganza. During winter the archery ground, which is capable of being flooded at will, is rented by the Skating Club. The building to the left of the entrance gate is reserved for the use of the members of the Skating Club, which dates from 1869.

The present Archers' Hall was built and the grounds laid out in 1832 at a cost of £4,000, the Society being originally founded by Sir Ashton Lever in 1781, under the title of the Finsbury Archers.



UNDERGROUND PASSAGE, ARCHERS' HALL

[*To face*

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THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE gardens of the Zoological Society, which occupy the extreme north-western corner of the Park, were acquired in 1828. Originally the area of the grounds was about seventeen acres, but additions have from time to time been made, until now they extend to fully thirty acres.

In 1875 an extensive addition was made by including about four acres of land on the north side of the canal, while in 1905 and 1908 other portions were likewise transferred for the use of the Society. Founded in 1826 by Sir Stamford Raffles "for introducing and domesticating new breeds or varieties of animals, such as quadrupeds, birds or fishes, likely to be useful in common life, and for forming a general collection on zoology," the Society had a small beginning at 33, Bruton Street, but gradually by gift and purchase the comprehensive assemblage of animated Nature grew until now it is, perhaps, the largest in the world.

In 1830 William IV became the Society's patron, and presented it with all the animals in the Royal Menagerie at Windsor.

The King also presented the collection of animals in the Tower of London, while the Government handed over the collection made by George IV at Cumberland Lodge, and also the specimens obtained by Sir John Franklin in North America, and Captain King in Patagonia. Mr. Gould also presented his collection of humming birds. In 1876 the late King, then Prince of Wales, brought back from India a collection of beasts and birds, an example which was followed by the present King George in 1905. In

1911 a collection of two hundred animals, presented by South Africa to the King, were also handed over to the Zoo. The main entrance for pedestrians to the gardens is from the northern end of the Broad Walk of the Park, but there are others for both pedestrians and vehicular traffic on the Outer Circle and Park Road, the latter being close to Primrose Hill, and known as the North Entrance.

The gardens are divided into three parts by the Outer Circle Road and the Regent's Canal, the whole being connected by tunnels and bridges. Apart altogether from the world-famed collection of animals that is to be seen here, these grounds present a remarkably pleasing and natural appearance, which is largely brought about by the numerous well-arranged shrubberies and flower beds that confront one in almost every direction. Flower gardening is certainly carried out here in no half-hearted manner, and of late years both this and the housing of the collection have been greatly improved by the capable secretary and his staff of assistants.

Regent's Park is, perhaps, better known as the home of the "Zoo" than one of the Royal Enclosures, indeed for the former it is one of the principal attractions to the thousands who flock to London during the holiday season. The number of visitors who paid for admission in 1910 was 598,107.

To give a description of the various animals to be found in the Zoological Gardens would be unnecessary, an excellent illustrated guide to such having been compiled by the authorities, and which is on sale at all the Park gates and entrances to the gardens. It might, however, be mentioned that there were 3,184 animals in the Zoo at the end of last year, the catering for which cost fully £4,698.

The new offices on the canal bank near St. Mark's Bridge were erected in 1910.

PRIMROSE HILL

ORIGINALLY there were two mounds or hills, that at present existing and that about one hundred yards distant, on which the reservoir of the West Middlesex waterworks has been erected. At various periods the hill was known under three distinct names, Barrow Hill, Primrose Hill and Greenberry Hill, though that these names had reference to one or other of the mounds, and probably were in use at the same time, is quite likely.

Probably the first mention of this barrow is in a charter at the British Museum dated 986, the name of Primrose Hill not occurring before the fifteenth century, and in one of the Roxborough Ballads in 1621. The name Greenberry Hill, which I find used as late as 1790, is said to have been a title which matched the separate names of the three murderers of Sir Edmund Godfrey, whose body was found on the hill towards the end of the year 1678. According to an old survey in the British Museum, the name Greenberry Hill was, however, in use long before 1678 and therefore had no reference to Godfrey.

Regarding the origin of the name Barrow Hill considerable differences of opinion exist, but in all likelihood it was the burial-place of some great chieftain, the word barrow meaning "cover" or "shelter." Some suppose it to have a military significance, but Professor Hales says it does not necessarily imply the site of a battle, it simply marks an honoured and distinguished sepulchre. The name Battle Hill would also appear to have been in use for the Barrow Hill in 1814, as I find it used about that date in official papers.

Unfortunately, little or no traces of the Barrow Hill now exist, the mound having been partially levelled when the reservoir was made, and still more unfortunate is it that all relics of the early British burial-place have either been lost sight of or destroyed. The name Primrose Hill obviously arose from the growth of Primroses there, and in an old list of wild plants in the Hampstead district the *Primula vulgaris*, or Primrose, is included. But other evidence is not wanting that the Primrose was at one time abundant on the hill, as in 1907 I had a letter from a lady, eighty years old, who remembers filling a basket with Primroses, gathered between Primrose Hill and the adjoining Zoo boundary, prior to 1838. From this it may be inferred that up to about sixty years ago Primroses were abundant on the hill, and the connection between these and the name of the place will be obvious.

The dense forest of Middlesex, composed principally of Oaks, and of which the name of St. John's Wood is a precious relic, extended all over the hill and the old Park of Marylebone, and although early in the thirteenth century the forest was deforested, sufficient still remained in these parts for the shelter of game, down even to the time of Queen Elizabeth. As far as Primrose Hill is concerned, probably the last remnants of the old forest disappeared in 1882, when five large, hollow Oak trees, each a couple of spans and upwards in girth, were removed, and in one of which a wallet of guineas was said to have been discovered.

In Fitzstephen's *Survey of the Metropolis*, written between 1170 and 1182, it is stated that beyond the cultivated ground "a forest extends full of the lairs and coverts of beasts and game, stags, bucks, boars and wild bulls."

At what date a general clearance of the trees took place in order that farming operations might be engaged in is not quite certain, but we know that

PRIMROSE HILL IN 1780

towards the end of Elizabeth's reign "the slopes of Primrose Hill were used as meadowland"; while the accompanying illustration shows clearly the subdivision of the hill into fields in 1780. But earlier, in 1778, it is recorded that cattle grazed on the hill, and were taken there by way of deep and dirty lanes, and in 1708 Primrose Hill was tenanted by a Mr. Thomas Baker, the extent of ground, which consisted of five fields, some under the cultivation of wheat, being sixty-three acres.

Geologically the formation of Primrose Hill is the London clay, but of a particularly unctuous, obstinate nature, which accounts for the retention of the two mounds, after the surrounding parts were washed away. At present on no part of the hill is there a greater depth of soil above the clay than about twelve inches. In 1842, soon after the succession of Queen Victoria, an exchange was made between Her Majesty and the authorities of Eton College, by which Primrose Hill became Crown Property (5 & 6 Vict. c. 78).

After this alterations and improvements were carried out in rapid succession, and the neglected hill, with its waterworn courses, was soon converted into a place of pleasure and recreation.

The oaken fence was erected in 1842, the gymnasium in 1847, while in 1852 a large and somewhat dangerous hollow on the northern side of the hill, which was used for rifle practice, was filled in with 2,000 cubic yards of soil, and shortly afterwards lamps were placed by the path sides all over the hill. In 1902 the last remains of the old pond on the north-western side of the hill—a relic of one of the branches of the Tybourne—disappeared by being filled up with soil, while a little later about twenty acres of the ground on the same side, where cavalry exercised and rough games were engaged in, were reclaimed and laid out as a recognised ground for cricket and football.

As the natural drainage of the hill accumulated in

the pond and along the adjoining hollow by Elsworthy Terrace, where a branch of the Tybourne formerly flowed, this lower side was hardly accessible to the general public, and was the occasion of numerous complaints; but by a system of drainage, tree-planting and path-making the whole has been converted into one of the most desirable resorts on the hill. By studying the public wants in the matter of roads and paths, much good has been brought about and unnecessary treading on the grass avoided —a point that should never be lost sight of in laying out of these in our public parks and gardens.

The summit of the hill is 206 feet above Trinity high-water mark of the Thames, and on a clear day an unusually fine view of many parts of London and the neighbouring district can be obtained from the conveniently arranged and well-seated plateau at the top. An indexed dial, which was erected here in 1904, distinctly points out the various places of interest that are visible from the hill-top. The view from this point was always much appreciated, for we find that in 1854 permission was granted to one William Wood to exhibit his telescope on Primrose Hill.

About twenty-five years ago a goodly portion of the hill was levelled and drained, trees were planted and fences erected; while within the last five years the addition of shrubberies at the various entrances, formation of new and improvement of old paths, and the placing of chairs have all contributed to make the hill a place of public recreation and enjoyment. As showing the public appreciation of these improvements, it may be stated that whereas a few years ago private chairs were not required on the hill, to-day these number several hundreds.

Primrose Hill is notorious in history for the murder of Sir Edmund Godfrey, or, perhaps more accurately, for his body having been found there in October 1678, after he was murdered elsewhere. Sir Edmund

MEDAL STRUCK TO COMMEMORATE THE DEATH OF SIR GODFREY

(*See page* 87.)

was a wealthy timber merchant, a justice of peace, and received knighthood for his conduct during the Plague. His body was found "in a ditch on the south side of Primrose Hill, surrounded with divers closes fenced in with high mounds and ditches, no road near, only some deep, dirty lanes made for convenience of driving cows and such like cattle in and out of the grounds, and those very lanes not coming within 500 yards of the place." Until quite recently a stone in the ditch by the northern iron fence of the reservoir marked the spot where the body was found. Three men, Green (cushion man to the Queen's chapel), Hill (servant to Dr. Godden, treasurer to the chapel), and Berry (porter at Somerset House), were tried and convicted for the murder, all three being executed in the early months of the following year. It is a curious fact that the names of the three murderers form the name of Greenberry Hill, by which the hill was known at one time.

Four medals were struck to commemorate the death of Sir Godfrey, copies of which may be seen in the British Museum. On one of these he is represented as walking with a broken neck and a sword in his body. On the reverse St. Denis is shown bearing his head in his hand, underneath being—

> "Godfrey walks up hill after he is dead,
> Denis walks down hill carrying his head."

An illustration of one is given here.

The North-western Railway tunnel passes under Primrose Hill from Chalk Farm to St. John's Wood and Kilburn through the most treacherous and unmanageable of London clay. At one time and for several years the hill was a place of meeting for popular demonstrations, before Hyde Park was chosen. On May 29, 1856, fireworks were here exhibited in celebration of the Peace, and a public meeting was also held to protest against the supposed expulsion of Garibaldi from England. In 1864

an Oak was planted by Mr. Phelps, the tragedian, to commemorate the tercentenary of Shakespeare. Regarding Shakespeare Oak, Mr. Truelove writes: "I am writing to you because I thought you would be interested in the subject of the Oak tree which was planted at the foot of Primrose Hill, on the 23rd of April 1864, by Mr. Samuel Phelps. Mr. Henry Marston started a committee in the year 1864, which held its meetings at St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell. I was a member of the committee. The object of the committee was to obtain permission of the Regent's Park authorities to plant an Oak tree at the foot of Primrose Hill. Permission was granted, and then Miss Eliza Cook was asked to plant the tree. She consented. On the 23rd of April 1864 a large fence was put up and a young Oak was planted by Mr. Phelps. Mr. Marston recited an ode by Miss Cook, who was prevented by serious illness from being present. Mrs. L. Banks sprinkled the tree with water from the river Avon. Mrs. Banks then spoke and the proceedings terminated." Primrose Hill has been visited by many celebrated persons, and Charles Lamb speaks of "lying on the hill and reading *Pamela*." Leigh Hunt gives a faithful picture of Hampstead as seen from Primrose Hill. During the agitation against the introduction of poor law bastilles, as the unions were then feared to become, a series of these monster meetings was held on Primrose Hill, addressed by the Rev. Joseph Rayner Stephens, from Lancashire.

The St. Pancras Volunteers of 1799 on stated days marched to Chalk Farm to fire at a target of stone, which was erected on the south side of the hill.

The stone target remained for many years after it ceased to be used by the Volunteers, and in connection with this rifle practice it may be noted that several of the old Oak trees, which were felled at a later date, contained large numbers of the old "ounce

bullets," as did the soil when dug out for path-making in the ground adjacent to the targets.

Primrose Hill and the adjoining Chalk Farm have been scenes of several sanguinary duels, as in April 1803, when Colonel Montgomery and Captain Macnamara fought with pistols, the former being killed; and in 1818 Lieutenant Bailey was fatally injured, while later in February 1821 an encounter took place between Scott, the editor of the *London Magazine*, and a friend of Lockhart's named Christie, a contributor to *Blackwood's Magazine*. Scott was severely wounded, and died a fortnight later at Chalk Farm. Here, too, about the year 1813, Ugo Foscoli fought a duel with the editor of the *Literary Museum*.

Previous to its purchase by the Crown, and for some years afterwards, Primrose Hill was the resort on Sundays and holidays of a very rough and rowdy class of visitors, the behaviour of whom was frequently referred to in the Press.

The proximity of the hill to Chalk Farm Tavern with its tea-garden and adjoining fields, where affairs of honour were frequently discussed and settled, and where balls, promenades, wrestling matches and prize-fights were freely engaged in, all tended to its demoralisation. The old tavern was pulled down in 1853, and modern buildings now occupy the site of the tea-gardens and duel fields, to both of which Dickens and Walford allude in their writings.

Amongst remarkable residences around Primrose Hill, special mention may be made of that in which Lady Byron, wife of the poet, died in 1860. It stands on the eastern slope of the hill in St. George's Terrace. At the corner of the Park and Primrose Hill, in St. James's Terrace, lived Mr. Hepworth Dixon, editor of the *Athenæum*.

The old leaning kiosk on the hill, which was pulled down in 1905, and instead of which an up-to-date building is about to be erected, was part of the Exhibition of 1851.

The total area of Primrose Hill is sixty-one acres three roods and thirty-one poles, and it stands in the parishes of St. Pancras and Marylebone. In spite of the stiff clay soil trees and shrubs grow vigorously on Primrose Hill, as is exemplified by the majestic lines of the black Italian Poplars, which form quite a feature of the hill landscape. The clumps of pink- and white-flowered May trees are doing well, and large additions have been made to these during the past few years. By the lodge and gymnasium are several unusually fine specimens of the cut-leaved Pyrus or Beam tree, while a row of the far from common Walnut-leaved Ash find a congenial home by the fence side of the reservoir. It is hardly likely that Mother Shipton's prophecy, "when London surrounds Primrose Hill the streets of the Metropolis will run with blood," will be fulfilled, as on the southern side at least the Regent's Park prevents the too near incursions of the builder.

In some of the guide-books to London, reference is made to Mother Shipton's prophecy that "Primrose Hill must one day be the centre of London." The prophecy has evidently been much distorted, and the following only made its appearance about 1880:—

> "Carriages without horses shall go,
> And accidents fill the world with woe;
> Primrose Hill in London shall be,
> And in its centre a Bishop's See."

The Monument or Memorial to Queen Victoria, erected at Buckingham Palace, was prepared on Primrose Hill, the large temporary wooden erection by the side of the gymnasium having been put up for that purpose.

It may not be generally known that Primrose Hill narrowly escaped being laid out as a public cemetery, a bill having been introduced to Parliament in 1842 for acquiring and converting the whole of the ground

for that purpose. Thanks to the opposition of the Vestry of St. Pancras at a meeting on May 24, the members one and all opposed the scheme when the bill was registered, and this most beautiful of the open spaces around London reserved for the public enjoyment.

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION

THE following notes regarding the geological formation of the Park have been supplied by

FRED. G. SHAW, ESQ., F.G.S.:—

From a geological point of view that portion of London which is now covered by Regent's Park presents a singularly uninteresting horizon, and that Londoners have this very beautiful and highly cultivated ground at their disposal is due to the fact that in the time when London was in the making this ground was an open heath, with but few natural or agricultural advantages. At a short distance below the upper and more recent soil lie the blue London clays, and under these again, the Reading and Thanet red clays. These two series of clays exist to a depth of from 182 feet to 267 feet below the surface, and they rest conformably on the chalks, which are a noticeable geological feature of the Thames Valley. No fossils have been, so far, discovered in the clays, and their geological age, beyond being anterior to the chalk measure, is therefore indeterminable. It is certain that the chalk measures have been undisturbed, and have altered but little from their dip since these clays were deposited. An analysis by Professor Way, of the London clays taken from average samples in Regent's Park, gives the following results:—

Organic matter and combined water	5·47%
Sand	12·35%
Clay	79·39%
Lime	2·79%
	100·00%

Outcropping along the southern edge of Regent's Park lies one of the series of the Thames Valley river drifts. These gravels mark the line of the comparatively healthier land, and have therefore been occupied by the buildings which encircle the south of Regent's Park.

Some geologists regard these gravels as being the upper or marginal line of former sea beaches, but Professor Morris, F.G.S., is generally acknowledged to have proved that these pebbly strata are those marking the original northern limit of the Thames, and not the deposit from any sea beach.

Uninteresting, however, as is the geological history of Regent's Park, yet its topographical aspect is of very real interest. The Park lies on a ridge, however, between two old tributaries of the Thames, which have long since disappeared, but which have left their mark on modern life in the names which are now used. Regent's Park is on the ground which lies to the east of a stream called the Tybourne, which took its rise in the sandy soil of Hampstead Heath.

Hugh Findon, Esq., F.G.S., has kindly supplied the following:—

Regent's Park is on a ridge of London clay left between the valleys of the Fleet on the east, and the Westbourne and the Bayswater on the west, and from which the upper Bagshot sands and loams of Hampstead denuded. The probable thickness of the clay is about 350 feet, as it is 324 feet in the boring in Highgate fields near the "Duke of St. Albans," and 480 feet in the boring at Meux's Brewery, Tottenham Court Road. The clay, of course, lies on the chalk. There is no reason to suppose that there is any superficial deposit on top of it, the glacial drift not occurring nearer than Finchley. Neither would we expect to find river gravel or silt, as the Fleet and Westbourne running some distance on either side and the

Thames deposits reach no further than Portland Place or thereabouts. There is no record of any fossils having been found in the district.

The geology of Primrose Hill, where fossils have been found, is recorded in the chapter dealing with this adjunct of the Park.

CHANGED APPEARANCE OF THE PARK AND PRIMROSE HILL

When we compare Regent's Park of to-day with the old Marylebone fields and their appendages the change is indeed great, and that even within the comparatively short period of a hundred years. If we, however, go back to the time of Queen Elizabeth when the site of the Park was covered with a dense forest of oak the change will be even all the greater, for to-day hardly a specimen of this tree is to be found, and the well-wooded grounds are now transformed into a broad extent of well-kept park.

Two centuries ago it was a rural spot, and Macaulay reminds us that, towards the end of the reign of Charles II, "cattle fed and sportsmen wandered with dogs and guns over the site of the borough of Marylebone."

Lambert in his *History of London*, published in 1806, says, "Marylebone was a small village almost a mile distant from the nearest part of the metropolis; indeed, it was formerly so distinct and separate from London as not to be included in most histories and topographical works devoted to the Metropolis." But changes were brought about quickly, for in *The Original* of 1855 it is recorded that "the beauty of Regent's Park, both as to buildings and grounds, seems like the effect of magic when contrasted with the recent remembrance of the quagmire of filth and the cowsheds and wretched dwellings of which they now occupy the place." These changes from a public point of view at least were highly desirable, though

the naturalist had, perhaps, just cause to mourn the loss of such interesting birds as the Nightingale, the Snipe and Woodcock, all of which were at one time frequenters of Marylebone Park fields.

The Heron, Plover and Partridge too were by no means uncommon, while the Fox, the Hare, Rabbit and Mole gradually disappeared after the Park was opened to the public.

As late as 1794 Marylebone Park was divided into forty-three fields, fully 543 acres in extent, and was held by three tenants. With the removal of farm buildings, hedges and lanes, the felling of timber and levelling of ground inequalities, these old farms quickly disappeared, and the Tybourne stream, which flowed through the Park from Hampstead and St. John's Wood, was almost completely lost sight of by the making of the Regent's Canal. Traces of it in the old bed of the stream and natural hollows of the ground through which it flowed from Charles Street to the west end of the lake were, however, not quite obliterated till a few years ago.

The greater portion of the present site of the lake was a series of small ponds and an extent of marshy ground fed by the Tybourne and its branches; while two small ponds which formed the eastern arm of the lake were located not far from the present York Bridge in the grounds of the Toxophilite Society. From near York Gate to Primrose Hill, across Wellan's Farm, there formerly existed a path of rural description; but this, with several others including the ancient tracks to Hampstead and Highgate, Kilburn and Kentish Town, soon disappeared after the work of laying out the Park was commenced. What is now known as the Marylebone Green was formerly subdivided into several fields, and farm buildings of a very primitive description occupied the present site of the shrubbery and other grounds near to the superintendent's house. Many remains of the old farmyard have been unearthed, such as the foundations and

MARYLEBONE IN 1740

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posts of buildings, and buried skeletons of cows and other farm stock. But at that time the whole of Marylebone Park fields were almost inaccessible to the general public, and it is said that few persons wandered so far north as the present games ground near the centre of the Park.

But changes came about so rapidly between 1786 and 1792, when hedges were uprooted, one only having escaped destruction, old lanes levelled over, farm buildings pulled down, and later, in 1840, the whole of the land belonging to three farms thrown into one broad expanse of Park. At the same time, or later, the making of roads and paths through the Park, levelling of many ground inequalities, drainage of the swampy land and planting of trees and shrubs all quickly obliterated the rural character of old Marylebone Park fields.

What a change, too, digging out the lake and forming the islands must have had on the general appearance of the Park; while the erection of Crown buildings imparted a residential appearance to the whole neighbourhood.

The adjoining Albany Street was formerly known as Green Lane, and Regent's Park Road as Chalk Farm Lane; while Hanover Gate was known as the west gate and Gloucester Gate as the east gate of the Park. The North Bridge, too, was of old known as Macclesfield Bridge.

The subdivision of the Park from Primrose Hill, by making the Regent's Canal, still further contributed to the change.

Primrose Hill has been even more changed than the old Marylebone fields, for the ancient Barrow Hill has disappeared, and the several fields, with the miry lanes and badly kept fences, have all been levelled over and thrown into one expanse of park land. The old Oak trees, too, for which the hill and adjoining St. John's Wood were at one time remarkable, have gradually died out or been removed, and many

shrubby and other plants that once found the Hill a congenial home have long since ceased to exist. From 1842, when the Hill became Crown property, changes and improvements followed each other in quick succession. First an oaken fence, which contributed greatly to the privacy and park-like appearance of the Hill, was erected, then paths were formed, gas lamps put up, the gymnasium erected, and a much-needed system of drainage and ground levelling carried out.

Owing to the want of adequate drainage, the hillsides were cut into deep and dangerous ravines, while the lower grounds, especially on the western side, were hardly passable by reason of the ponds and pools of water which accumulated in the hollow grounds. All this has now disappeared, deep and dangerous holes have been levelled over, and bare patches of the hillside covered with grass. Tree-planting, which was mainly carried out about thirty years ago, has, too, greatly changed the aspect of the Hill, the noble avenue of poplars being quite a feature of the grounds, while the recently formed shrubberies at the various entrance gates impart a cheery and park-like appearance to the place.

Many other changes both around the Park and Hill have taken place. The Tybourne Conduit of 1236—a relic of old Marylebone and the Tybourne stream of which an illustration is here given—has also been pulled down.

TYBOURNE CONDUIT, 1236

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THE FLORA OF REGENT'S PARK AND PRIMROSE HILL

JUDGING from published floras of the London district the fields of old Marylebone Park had a large and varied collection of wild plants, the majority of which survived till about the time the Park was opened in 1823. To-day, however, the case is quite different, and the compiler of the list of native plants to be found in Regent's Park and Primrose Hill would require to omit a large number of such as were included in that of less than a century ago. Primrose Hill was at one time famous for the primroses which flourished on the shady banks of its hedges and ditches, but to-day, except a few clumps which were reintroduced some years ago by way of experiment, not a specimen can be found. The banks of the famous Tybourne stream, too, which flowed through the Park, were in certain parts alive with the long spikes of the early purple orchid (*Orchis mascula*), the deep yellow of the Iris (*I. pseudacorus*), the Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*), and hosts of other plants that find a congenial home in marshy districts; while the stream itself and the original lakelets in the Park were teeming with a rich and varied collection of aquatic plants, including the beautiful water Ranunculs (*R. aquatilis*), the sweetly scented Acorus calamus, the yellow water-lily (*Nuphar lutea*), hosts of the water forget-me-not, and in later days that pest of our canals and ponds, the American weed (*Elodea canadensis*), was abundant.

So few of the original hedges and thickets of the

old Marylebone fields have escaped destruction that only a very limited number of the native trees and shrubs are to the fore. Of trees we have still the Oak, Elm, Sycamore, Wild Cherry, Poplar, Elder, Hornbeam, Holly, and perhaps two kinds of Willow; while amongst shrubs the Hazel, Thorn, Privet, Sloe, Wild Rose, Ivy, the Atropa and Solanum are perhaps the sole representatives of a long-lost flora. Both the latter occur in some plenty by the Outer Circle Road of the Park, while in the only remaining hedgerow of the old Marylebone fields all the others are still to be found. Grasses, as might be expected, are particularly abundant, no less than twenty-seven varieties having been detected; while of aquatic and semi-aquatic plants there are a few still to the fore, the remnants of a much larger collection that existed before waterfowls were introduced to the lake. Quite a host of native aquatic plants may be found in the pond in the flower garden, such as the Water Plantain (*Alisma Plantago*), the Arrowhead (*Sagittaria sagittifolia*), Water Soldier (*Stratiotes aloides*) and Common Frogbit (*Hydrocharis Morsus-ranæ*).

Ferns are sparsely represented, while not a specimen of the orchid family or Cuckoo-Flower are now to be found, though at one time all were abundant in the dampish fields and hedgerows of old Marylebone Park. The Cowslip still exists in one spot where it is supposed to be truly wild.

Possibly the last remnants of the gorse and broom are to be found on Primrose Hill, where also occurs, though in no great plenty, a few other of such plants as were at one time counted as common on Hampstead Heath and the neighbouring St. John's Wood, both of which places, if we may judge from published floras, were, less than a century ago, remarkable for a rich collection of wild plants.

Both species of Solanum and the Belladonna or Deadly Nightshade, the family to which our potato and tomato belong, are to be found. Solanum dulca-

mara, the bitter-sweet, although usually considered as a shrubby plant, has attained to about sixteen feet in height, with a woody stem fully an inch in diameter close to the Outer Circle Road, where also a representative of the Broomrape family in the curious parasitic Orobanche minor may be detected.

The Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum*) has spread to an amazing extent on the islands in the lake; indeed, so strong and thickly is it found that one's passage is impeded by the growth. It may be counted by the hundred; reproducing itself freely, and often attaining to ten feet in height. One specimen only of the curiously erratic Viper's Bugloss (*Echium*) have I seen, while the Toad-Flax (*Linaria*) is spreading freely on a stony bank in the Park. The giant Mullein (*Verbascum*) may be seen in plenty on the north-eastern side of the Park, while the Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Circæa lutetiana are both plentiful in at least two parts of the Park. Two species of Campanula or Bell Flower are undoubtedly truly wild in the common Harebell (*C. rotundifolia*) and the creeping Campanula (*C. rapunculoides*). Both the Millfoil or Yarrow (*Achillea*) and the Roman Nettle are abundant, as also the Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*) and the Wild Mignonette (*Reseda luteola*), the latter being an annual of common occurrence.

The following list embraces the more important native trees, shrubs and plants generally that are found in the Park—

Trees

Acer campestre.
Quercus robur.
Ulmus campestris.
Salix alba.
Fraxinus excelsior.
Acer pseudo-platanus.
Cerasus vulgaris.
Sambucus nigra.
Ilexaquifolium.
Alnus glutinosa.
Populus nigra.

Shrubs

Ligustrum vulgare.
Rosa canina.
Atropa belladonna.
Solanum dulcamara.
Crataegus oxyacantha.
Prunus spinosa.
Hedera helix.
Rubus fruticosus.
Ulexeuropaeus.
Cytisus scoparius.
Euonymus europaeus.

Plants

Campanula rotundifolia.
Campanula rapunculoides.
Campanula trachelium.
Achillea millaefolium.
Alisma Plantago.
Arum maculatum.
Arundo phragmites.
Bellis perennis.
Butomus umbellatus.
Caltha palustris.
Circæa lutetiana.
Convolvulus arvensis.
Digitalis purpurea.
Echium vulgare.
Geranium sylvaticum.
Heracleum sphondylium.
Hypericum (various).
Linaria cymbalaria.
Lysimachia nummularia.
Malva sylvestris.
Mentha aquatica.
Mercurialis annua.
Plantago major.
Polygonum (several).
Potentilla argentea.
Primula veris.
Receda luteola.
Sambucus ebulus.
Tussilago farfara.
Valeriana officinalis.
Verbascum blattaria.
Verbascum nigrum.
Veronica beccabunga.
Vicia sylvatica.

NOTES ON THE ILLUSTRATIONS OF MARYLEBONE PARK AND PRIMROSE HILL

PROBABLY the earliest illustration is that of 1740, which is copied from an old print, and represents a portion of the lake and ancient village of Tybourne with the church and some farm buildings in the background. The next, dated 1750, shows one of the farms in Marylebone Park, with the farm buildings and trees and a group of cattle in the foreground. That of Marylebone Park Farm, which extended from about York Bridge to nearly the centre of the present Park, and which was of a particularly rural description, is dated 1790, and shows a party of haymakers with a field in cocks and several hayricks. The original of that dated 1807 is in the National Gallery. It was painted by Ward, and shows, in addition to a portion of the farm, the particular breed of cattle for which old Marylebone Park Farm was remarkable, also a piece of water and farm labourers at work. Of the old parish churches of Tybourne, one of which still stands within a stone's-throw of the Park, two illustrations have been reproduced from old engravings, the lower showing the present building which superseded the older erection about 1742, and has been immortalised by Hogarth in his plate of "The Rake's Progress." The original church stood on or near the present courthouse of the parish at the end of Marylebone Lane, near Oxford Street, from where it was shifted in 1400, owing to its having fallen into decay and being robbed of its books, vestments, bells, images and other decorations. The second church was built on the site of a chapel near the upper end of High Street, was

taken down in 1741, and the present building erected in its place during the following year. The Shepherds' Well at Hampstead, dated 1827, is interesting as showing the principal source of the Tybourne stream which, on its way to the Thames, flowed through Regent's Park and formed the lake or ornamental waters. Two other interesting plates are those of the map of Roman London on which the course of the Tybourne and its branches are marked and a portion of the stream as encased in a culvert by the lake side. One of the old conduit houses, which was visited by the Lord Mayor and his aldermen on the 18th of September of every year, is shown on the plate dated 1236. Of the old Manor House of Marylebone Park two illustrations are given, one of the time of Queen Elizabeth and the other dated 1790. They are from old prints and are interesting as showing this historic building both from the Park and Marylebone Road. The original York Bridge, dated 1817, shows the structure before it was widened to its present dimensions and when a primitive wooden hand-rail supplemented the present iron sides. Its position with reference to Marylebone Park and the entrance to the underground passage which leads from the ground floor of the Archers' Hall towards York Bridge has been reproduced. It is beautifully built, and sufficiently wide and high for two persons to walk side by side. No satisfactory explanation of the origin of this curious underground passage has been given.

Jenkins' thatched cottage, which stood in the grounds of the Botanical Society, and which was pulled down about the time the secretary's house was built, is an interesting relic of a tree and shrub nursery which formerly occupied the site of these grounds. It is from a sketch which has been carefully preserved by the Sowerby family.

Two other illustrations are those of Primrose Hill, about 1780, subdivided into fields and crowned with a tree at its highest point. The other is a copy of the

MARYLEBONE GARDENS, 1780

(*See page* 105.)

medal which was struck to commemorate the death of Sir Edmund Godfrey, whose body was found on Primrose Hill in 1678. The illustration of King Lud and his two sons is from an old engraving, and the original figures may still be seen at St. Dunstan's Lodge in Regent's Park. Historically they are of great interest, and are fully described in the chapter dealing with the Outer and Inner Circles.

The original North Bridge, then called Macclesfield Bridge, and house of the park superintendent adjoining were destroyed by the gunpowder explosion in 1874.

Marylebone Gardens, from a print of 1780, is interesting as showing this celebrated place of amusements which stood directly at the back of the old Manor House. It was opened previous to 1737, and closed by public desire in 1778.

The Colosseum stood in the Park at Cambridge Terrace. It was erected in 1825 and pulled down in 1875. The plate here given shows not only the Colosseum but part of the lake and adjoining shrubberies.

The Tybourne Tree is copied from an illustration which appeared in one of the magazines, as is that of the Tybourne conduit.

To Mr. W. W. Warner I am indebted for numerous beautiful photographs, including those of the Underground Passages, the Old Hut, and Flower Garden.

MISCELLANEOUS INTERESTING NOTES

In Domesday Book the Manor of Tybourne is described as "the parcel of the ancient demesnes of the Abbess and Convent of Barking who held it under the Crown."

There is a pasture for cattle of the village, and pannage for fifty hogs. Pannage means that the oak or beech-woods produced sufficient food for fifty hogs.

The Manor was granted by several successive kings to various persons, but the Park was often reserved or reclaimed by the Crown.

According to a list of salaries in Queen Elizabeth's time the keepers, etc., of Marylebone Park received as follows—

	£	s.	d.
Keeper for Maribone Park, fee . .	12	13	4
Keeper of the House, Covent Garden and the woods at Maribone . .	10	0	0
Lieutenant of the Chase at Maribone .	10	0	0

According to a survey of the Marylebone Park estate, belonging to the Crown, dated 1794, made by order of the Lords of the Treasury, the total area was 543 acres and 17 poles.

About two-thirds of the land lies in the parish of St. Marylebone and the rest in that of St. Pancras.

The farm between Marylebone and Primrose Hill was then rented by Mr. Wellan, and contained 288 acres. Mr. Kendall and Mr. Mortimer also rented two farms, the former of 133 acres and the latter 117

acres. Primrose Hill farm of 63 acres and 1 rood was tenanted by a Mr. Baker in 1708.

Little in the way of antiquities has been found in the Park or at Primrose Hill. A few Roman coins including a Constantine and a forgery of Tetricus, a small piece of Roman pottery, and several ivory tusks and horns have been unearthed in the Park from time to time. As might be expected Georgian coins are most plentiful, and on Marylebone Green, when tree-planting was being carried out, large numbers were found, many almost in mint condition. A Rose Noble of Edward II and a Magna Charta commemoration coin dated 1794 were also unearthed. At Primrose Hill a medallion of George IV was dug up when trenching the soil. Large numbers of Dutch smoking pipes have been found all over the Park, but especially on the lower grounds of Primrose Hill.

References to the Park are few, those to which I have had access being Smith's *Topographical and Historical Account of the Parish of St. Marylebone,* the papers in the Record Office, and those connected with H.M. Office of Works. Lyson's *Environs of London* contains the names and titles of all those who held land under the Crown in the Manor of Tybourne. In the British Museum there is an interesting map of the Park, on which the present lake is shown as a series of ponds and low-lying marshy grounds. It is dated 1790. An excellent series of engravings of many of the buildings in Regent's Park, dedicated to George IV, was published by Mr. Elmes, an architect, in 1829. Roque's map of London gives a little information, and Potter's plan of a drainage scheme for London gives the course of the Tybourne. The map of Roman London also shows the course of the Tybourne and its branches.

By permission of the Board, public addresses may

be delivered in a portion of the Park which is reserved for that purpose, but collecting money is not allowed. Evidently the giving of addresses in the Park is of considerable antiquity, as it is recorded that 50,000 persons have at one time been in the Marylebone fields to hear the preaching of Whitefield.

The Park Superintendent's house originally stood on the banks of the Regent's Canal near Macclesfield Bridge (now known as North Bridge), but with the bridge was destroyed by the explosion of 1874. The present Superintendent's house is in the Inner Circle of the Park, and was built in 1879.

The illustration opposite is that of a wooden hut which for nearly half a century has been in use in various parts of the Park, principally as a place of refreshment. Before Avenue Lodge and the cake-house opposite were built, it took the place of the latter, after which it was transferred to Primrose Hill for a similar purpose; afterwards it served as a temporary entrance to the flower garden at Park Square before the flower-garden lodge was built, from which it was taken to the store yard as a room for the reception of the workmen's tools. For a number of years it stood by the waterside and was used as a store place for grain for the water-fowls, and as a kennel for Dogs and Ferrets. It was removed in 1908, when a more suitable building was put up on the island near the boathouse.

Owing to human bones having been unearthed in the Park at various times, it has been suggested that irregular burials at one time took place in the deserted fields of old Marylebone. With the exception of the Barrow Hill, which in all probability was an early British burying-place, the suggestion has, however, little to support it. Skulls and the human bones have been unearthed in the Park, but in nearly every case their origin can be traced to the soil which had been

THE WOODEN HUT

[*To face p.* 108.

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introduced from some of the London building grounds. Several skulls are interred together near the cricket pavilion, the origin of which is well known; while the same may be said of portions of a coffin and some human bones which were unearthed when an extension of the Zoological Society's ground took place.

Marylebone Spa—the waters of which were supposed to have medicinal properties—was discovered in Marylebone Gardens prior to their being closed in 1778.

The perambulation of the Parish bounds takes place every seven years. This ancient custom, called "Walking or beating the bounds"—a relic of Roman times—took place regularly in Marylebone till near the close of the nineteenth century.

It may be of interest to state that Regent's Park and Marylebone were the pioneers of Lord's Cricket Ground.

At Dorset Square, adjoining the Park, there was, until 1814, a small cricket ground owned by one Lord, a publican. With the building of the Crown property Mr. Lord was compelled to give up his cricket ground, which afterwards found a home in the Park at what was then called the North Bank. This, however, was not a permanent ground and a field near Hampstead was rented, which gradually grew into the Lord's Cricket Ground of to-day.

Meteoric stones have been found in the Park on several occasions, one as late as 1909.

In connection with the old Tybourne and other conduits Stowe informs us that it was customary for the Lord Mayor, accompanied by the aldermen and other citizens on horseback, on the 18th of September

of every year, to visit the fountain-heads whence the conduits in the City were supplied, hunting a hare before dinner and a fox after dinner, in the fields beyond St. Giles. The Lord Mayor's banqueting house formerly stood at Conduit Mead, now occupied by Stratford Place.

The Park is readily accessible from any part of London: Baker Street, Portland Road, Regent's Park and St. John's Wood Stations all being within a few minutes' walk. Omnibuses, too, pass all the principal gates and entrances to the Park.

TIMES OF OPENING AND CLOSING THE PARK GATES

The gates are opened at 5 a.m. on weekdays and at 6 a.m. on Sundays all the year round.

Closing times are as follow—

January	9	4.45 p.m.	May	27	8.45 p.m.
,,	17	5 ,,	June	6	9 ,,
,,	24	5.15 ,,	,,	16	8.45 ,,
February	4	5.30 ,,	,,	22	8.30 ,,
,,	12	5.45 ,,	,,	28	8.15 ,,
,,	18	6 ,,	August	6	8 ,,
March	1	6.15 ,,	,,	15	7.45 ,,
,,	11	6.30 ,,	,,	21	7.30 ,,
,,	20	6.45 ,,	,,	28	7.15 ,,
,,	30	7 ,,	September	5	7 ,,
April	1	7 ,,	,,	13	6.45 ,,
,,	7	7.15 ,,	,,	18	6.30 ,,
,,	17	7.30 ,,	,,	25	6.15 ,,
,,	25	7.45 ,,	October	29	5 ,,
May	3	8 ,,	November	7	4.45 ,,
,,	10	8.15 ,,	,,	14	4.30 ,,
,,	18	8.30 ,,	January	8	4.30 ,,

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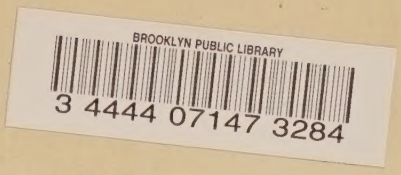

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